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THE

# MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER,

VOL. III., 1900

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASS.

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VOL. III., 1900




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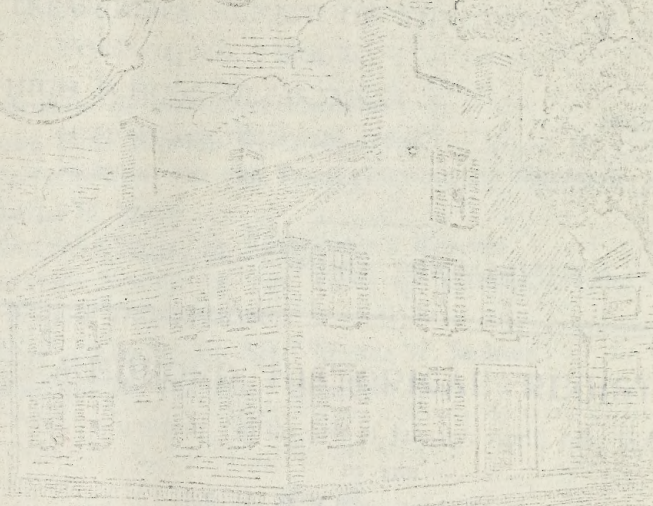
Vol. III.] [No. 1.

# HISTORICAL REGISTER



JANUARY, 1900

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PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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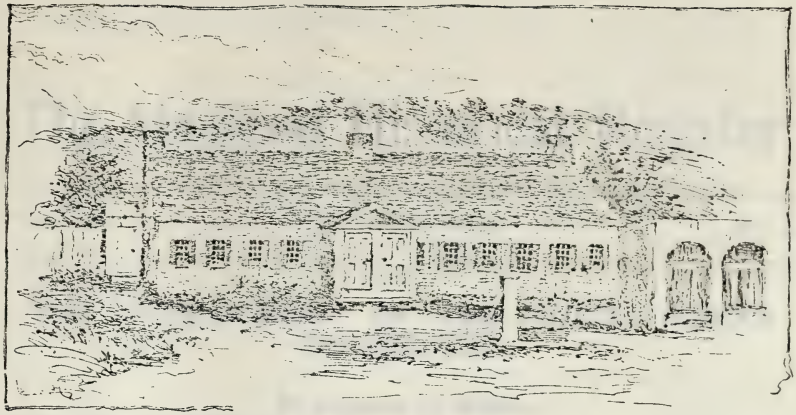
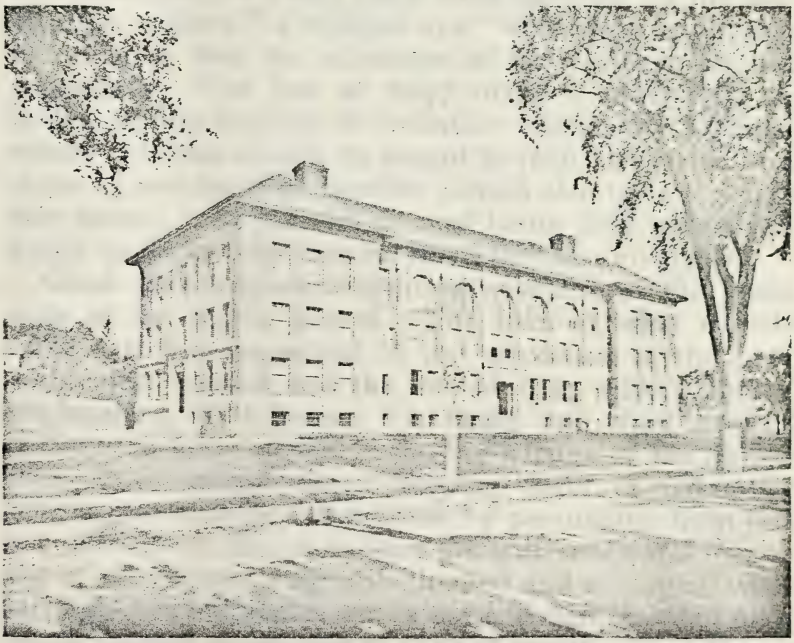


HIGH SCHOOL OF THE LAST CENTURY,

Located in rear of Unitarian Church.



MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

Forest Street, 1896.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. III. JANUARY, 1900. NO. I.

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL OF MEDFORD.

BY CHARLES H. MORSS.

"FORASMUCH as the good education of children is of singular behoof and benefit to any commonwealth, and whereas many parents and masters are 'too indulgent and negligent of their duty in that kind" the selectmen of every town were directed by the law of 1642 to have "a vigilant eye" over their neighbors, to see to it that the education of the children be not neglected. The law of 1647 made it obligatory on towns of fifty families to maintain elementary schools, where children should be taught to read and write, and those of one hundred families should also have a grammar school, "the masters thereof being able to instruct youth so far as they may be fitted for the university."

Good citizenship was then as now one of the great aims of the public school. The idea of what constituted this was explained by our ancestors in the preamble just quoted, and the law of 1647 adds a further explanation, as follows: "It being one chief project of Satan to keep men from the knowledge of the Scripture, as in former times keeping them in unknown tongues, so in these latter times by persuading from the use of tongues, that so at least the true sense and meaning of the original might be clouded and corrupted with false glosses of deceivers; to the end that learning may not be buried in the graves of our forefathers, in church and commonwealth, the Lord assisting our endeavors: It is therefore ordered by the court and authority

thereof," etc. The penalty on the towns for non-fulfilment of the law requiring an elementary school in towns of fifty families and a grammar school in those having one hundred was placed at £5 in 1647, but increased to £10 in 1692, and again to £20 in 1702. The grammar school thus established must not be confounded with our present application of the term, but it is the use still prevailing in England and was the one contemplated by the law, that is, it is what we know as a Latin School or a High School that prepares pupils for the university. Upon the list of Medford taxpayers for the Province rate of £12–16s levied 21st Oct., 1719, while the inhabitants were agitating the question of the first school, were the names of seventy taxpayers, so that we may fairly infer that if Medford was not actually compelled to support an elementary school at this time she had about reached that limit.

The establishment of that first school is so important, so interesting, as well as so characteristic of the way town business was transacted in those early days, that the whole evidence regarding it is here presented, even though some of it has been given before.

The people of 1719 did not suddenly rouse themselves to the idea of teaching their children. Probably most of them could read and write already, receiving the instruction either in the home or in the neighboring town of Charlestown.

That such a proposition as establishing a school in the town was not an entirely new thought to the people is evident from one of the votes about building a meeting-house, passed at a town-meeting held Nov. 30, 1691, which reads: "At A meeting of the Inhabitants of Medford voted that Mr. John Hall, Sen. and Capt. Peter Tufts shall intreat Madā Wade and the overseer of maior Jonathan Wades farme for one quarter of an acre of land for the erecting and setting a meeting house near or upon the Land that s$^{d}$ maior formerly appointed for a Schoole house that s$^{d}$ meadford may injoy for their

publick house." Thus one citizen, at least, had previous to the year 1691 given some thought to the establishment of a school, though there is no evidence that the town ever took any action upon the matter.

There were at this time only twenty eight names on the tax list, so a school was not compulsory. Nothing further appears about a school for nearly eighteen years, the meeting-house question probably filling the minds and emptying the pockets of the people so that there was no chance for school or school-house. The meeting-house, the agitation for which was here begun, was completed in 1696; but no mention is made of a school till 1719, when, as before mentioned, the number of householders probably necessitated action.

July 10, 1719, in the warrant calling a town meeting for the 15th was an article "to consider what may be proper to be Don in order to Setting up a writing school in S$^{d}$ Town." The voters assembled on the 15th and adjourned to the 20th, without coming to a vote on the matter, though we can scarcely believe that so important and really revolutionary a matter did not receive full discussion on the 15th. But on the 20th it was "put to vote whether the Town will have some meet person to keep a writing school in y$^{e}$ Town for three or four months in y$^{e}$ winter season," and passed; and next, "Att s$^{d}$ meeting putt to vote whether the Town will choose a Commity of five men to treet with some meet person or persons to keep a writing school in the town as aformentioned." Capt Tufts, Capt Ebenezer Brooks, Lieut. Stephen Hall, Ensign Stephen Francis, and Mr. John Willis were chosen, and two more, Deacon Whitmore and Jonathan Tufts, were afterward added, making this first school committee seven in number. The committee took time enough to give the subject careful consideration, for not until November 13 was the warrant issued for a town-meeting to hear the report of this committee. The voters assembled Nov. 30, 1719, but the committee had evidently come to no agreement,

for no "meet person" was brought forward for the school. But the inhabitants voted to have the school kept the ensuing winter at the house of Thomas Willis, Jr., which was probably situated not far from the first meeting-house, near the junction of Woburn and High streets. A committee of three, Ensign John Bradshaw, Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, and John Willis, was appointed to secure a teacher. In considering the location of this first school, and also of the first school-house, we must bear in mind that that part of Winchester known as Symmes Corner belonged to Medford, that there were families residing there, and on Grove street, and that east of the Square there were very few residents, so that this location for the first school was undoubtedly near the centre of population. The Wade property, and the lot of land that the major had "appointed for a school house," was probably too far to the east to suit the majority of the voters. As we read farther in the records we see stronger and stronger evidence of the tendency of the east and west ends of the town to pull in opposite directions.

At the next meeting of the town, Dec. 11, 1719, the voters chose, undoubtedly on the recommendation of this committee of three, "Mr. Henery Davison, to keep a school in said Town for one q$^{r}$ of a year next ensuing." The whole record of this meeting of Dec. 11, 1719, is interesting and valuable, showing how minutely the voters scrutinized every act and how cautiously they took each step. After the first school-master had been chosen, "Att said meeting put to vote whether y$^{e}$ town will alow Mr. Davison y$^{e}$ sume of Three Pound money for keepin school the time above s$^{d}$ and also to diet him for y$^{e}$ term above said," "Voted for y$^{e}$ afft." "Att said meeting put to vote whether y$^{e}$ Town will raise eight pounds money for defraying the charges of said school forthwith to be levied and collected of y$^{e}$ inhabitants of said town in case said money be not raised by a subscription of y$^{e}$ inhabitants of said town."

"Att said meeting put to vote whether y^e^ Town will choose a committy of six men to inform Mr. Davison of y^e^ Towns proceedings att this present meeting, and in case Mr. Davison do not except then said commity are hereby inpowred to treet and agree with some other sutable person on y^e^ Terms affors^d^," "voted in y^e^ afftive."

With due formality Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, Ensign John Bradshaw, Capt. Samuel Brooks, Mr. John Willis, Mr. John Whitmore, and Mr. Thomas Oaks were chosen to wait on Mr. Davison and inform him of the action of the town; so our first school-master was thus inaugurated with becoming dignity, and as it had been the main topic through four successive town meetings, we can assume that it was considered a great step for Medford to take. The meeting then proceeded to appoint Mr. Thomas Tufts and Capt. Ebenezer Brooks (one from each end of the town, as was very fitting) to collect the subscription in accordance with their previous vote. Whether this first school was thus paid for can be simply a matter of inference, but the absence of any tax levy for this purpose leads us to suppose that the subscription was successful. Whenever the town found it necessary to raise money for the minister's salary, for the province tax, or for any other purpose, it was made out in a separate rate. This eight-pound levy that was voted appears nowhere on the record, so that the inference seems fair that Mr. Tufts and Capt. Brooks were sufficiently persuasive to render it unnecessary.

Thus was our first school established, called in the vote of the town a "writing school." But the name signified little, for it was probably one of those elementary schools of the olden time which aimed to teach simply the "three R's." In the later votes of the town it is mentioned as a "writing school," as a "writing and reading school," as a "reading school," and also as a "reading, writing and ciphering school," the only reason so far as I can see for giving it any name at all being to

indicate its elementary nature and to differentiate it from a grammar school as understood in those days.

When this first step had been taken and the school launched, the people began to agitate the school-house question. Brooks in his "History of Medford" says: "Heretofore schools had been kept in private houses, but Feb. 22, 1720, it was voted to build a school house," and also "where the first school-house stood is not known, but it was probably near the meeting-house at the West End." Both of these statements need only a cursory glance to show their incorrectness. The first school, in the house of Thomas Willis, Jr., was not opened till after Dec. 11, 1719, and at the town-meeting Feb. 22, 1720, had kept only about one-half of its first term, but the inhabitants were sufficiently impressed with its importance to call a town meeting for Feb. 22, 1720, "to know y^e^ minde of y^e^ Town whether y^e^ will state a place for a school house and also to know whether the Town will build a new scholl house." "Att said meeting put to vote whether y^e^ Town will choose a committee of five men to consider of a convenient place for setting of a schoolhouse in said town which may best acomodate y^e^ whole Towne and to make report of y^e^ Doings herein att our generall March meeting next ensuing for y^e^ Towns concurrence," and it was thus ordered, the committee being Capt. Peter Tufts, Deacon John Whitmore, Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, Mr. John Willis, Mr. John Richardson. At this time the old meeting-house was outgrown, and needed repairs as well as enlargement. So again the school-house question was buried under this more weighty one of a meeting-house, and no report of this committee was ever made so far as recorded evidence directly shows. But all the indirect evidence at our command points decidedly to the fact that the town did not possess a school-building of its own till the expiration of thirteen years from the establishment of its first school. On Aug. 17, 1722, it was voted to have a "Scool keept," and Thomas Tufts, Esq., Capt.

Ebenezer Brooks, and Mr. John Bradshaw were chosen a committee to provide a teacher, and at the adjourned meeting October 15 this same committee was empowered "to agree with some person or persons for a sutable Room or Rooms for y^e^ said scoole to be kept in and make report to y^e^ town of their Doings att y^e^ next adjournment." There is no record of the adjourned meeting, which was set for October 22, and the next town meeting held December 14 had nothing about schools. But if the town had possessed a house of its own at this time it would not be likely to hire a place or places for the school to be kept in. Likewise in December, 1726, we find the town voted to have a "Writting" School for three months and the committee were instructed to "Hire a School House for the time above said." And again, Nov. 25. 1728, the committee were chosen to "select a teacher and appoint a place." The same vote was passed Nov. 17, 1729. Beginning with 1729, we have another source of evidence added in the Treasurer's Book. On the very first page of his account we find the entry:

"To Cash p^d^ to Dea^cn^ Willis for y^e^ use of a Room for y^e^ Schole £1–10s." The dates of the first pages are obliterated so that we can tell only by the dates on the credit side — the right-hand page of the account — what the date should be. The date of this entry was probably 1730. On the fourth page of the book, under accounts for 1731–2, is this entry: "To cash p^d^ to y^e^ Widow Susanna Willis in full for a Room for the School in 1730/1, 10s." Deacon Willis had died in May, 1731, and Susanna was his widow. Farther down the same page, which seems to bring the account well along into the year 1732, is the entry: "To Cash p^d^ to y^e^ widow Susanna Willis in full for Room for y^e^ School in Time past, £2–02s." Accordingly we feel sure that the first school-house was not built in 1720. The duties of the school committee up to this time had been very simple. They were appointed for

the specific duty of selecting a teacher and providing a room, and there their responsibility ceased.

Evidently there were inconveniences attending this first school of 1719–20, for the next year the question of division was brought up, and at an adjourned meeting, Dec. 12, 1720, it was voted that the "Town will Raise eight Pounds money for y^e^ Suport and incoragment of y^e^ School y^e^ ensuing Winter in each part of y^e^ Town namely y^e^ East and West Ends of s^d^ Town. To sett up w^r^ it shall best acomodate each Respective end of y^e^ Town and y^e^ money granted to be equaly Devided between each school." Jonathan Tufts, Peter Secomb, John Willis were appointed a committee for the east part, and Capt. Samuel Brooks, Lieut. Stephen Hall, John Whitmore for the west part. The committee for the east chose, as you know, the first teacher, Henry Davison, and the committee for the west chose Caleb Brooks, probably a nephew of the committeeman, a son of his brother Ebenezer. Where these schools were kept is a matter of conjecture simply, but it seems reasonable to suppose that the one at the west end was on Grove street or at Symmes Corner. This school seems to have been preëmpted by the Brooks family, as we find various entries in the Treasurer's book from 1730 to 1734 for sums of money paid Samuel Brooks, Jr., for teaching at the same time that another teacher was employed for the school kept in the building then owned by the town. This Samuel was possibly a brother of Caleb, the first teacher for the west part.

The agitation for a new meeting-house which began in 1716, and completely buried the proposed new school-house in 1720, reached a climax in 1726, when the second meeting-house was built on the low land just east of Marble creek which has since been known as Meeting-house brook. This was finished and occupied in 1727. After the minds, and likewise the purses, of the inhabitants had had a proper period of rest and recuperation from the bitter contest of ten years, they bethought

themselves once more of a school-house. The warrant for the town meeting of Nov. 17, 1729, contains an article as follows: "And also to know whether the town will have the old meeting house taken down and the material improved towards building a scoole House for the use of the Town and in Case the Town Comply therewith to Consider what Dementions to build and where to set the same." No action was taken on this matter that was deemed worthy of record. On Oct. 5, 1730, it was "voted to build a Scoole House," also "there shall be a Committee of five men chosen to Consider of the Place where and of what demention it may be proper for to Build s[d] House and what the cost may be." The committee chosen consisted of John Willis, John Whitmore, William Patten, Jonathan Tompson, William Willis, who reported at the adjourned meeting Oct. 19, "that it would be Proper for the Town to Build their Scoole House, Twenty-four foot long, and twenty foot wide and ten foot stud & the Place they were of opinion to Build on was the Town land by the Meeting House Joyning near Ebenezer Brooks Junr. land, the Norwest Corner of said House to be at a stake and a stone which they have Prefixed."

This report was accepted, but when it was "Put to vote whether the town will raise Eighty Pounds money . . . for to Build a Scoole House and to Defray the charge of a scoole" the inhabitants said, No! The same attempt was made, with like result, Feb. 3, 1731, and again March 1, 1731. On Oct. 5, 1731, a committee of four men was chosen to consider the subject and report. The same *five* men were appointed to this committee, and they made the same report with the same result. But another year of waiting brought the desired result, for on Sept. 25, 1732, it was "put to vote whether the Town would now proceed to build a scoole House and that the s[d] House shall be finished by the Twenty-fifth Day of November next Ensuing," and it was passed. Capt. Ebenezer Brooks, Capt. John Hall, and Benjamin

Willis were the committee appointed to build the house. It had been twelve years since the first recorded attempt to build, forty-one years at least since the subject was first broached by Major Wade ; and after the location and plan had been reported it still took three years with eight town meetings to secure this simple wooden structure, twenty-four feet long, twenty feet wide, ten feet high, on land already owned by the town.

The house was doubtless completed on time or very nearly so, because we find next to the last entry for the year in the Treasurer's Book : " Pd Benj. Willis on account of the School House £10 ; and in 1733 :

" Pd. Jona. Watson for work at School House £18–10s.
Jacob Polly " " " " 1–15
Sam. Francis " " " " 1–15 "

. The school house cost up to this time £32, but in 1734–5, month impossible of determination : " To Cash p$^{d}$ to Deac$^{n}$ Willis for the School house materials £20–2s. –6d."

" Cash pd John Bradshaw for materials for y$^{e}$ school, 6s," making the total £52–8/6d.

There had probably been a school for three or four months every winter for the thirteen years from the establishment of the first school to the building of the first school-house, but the names of only five of the men who taught the children of Medford during this time have been found. Those known are —

1719, Henry Davison.
1720, Henry Davison, Caleb Brooks.
1728, [Ammi R.] Cutter, Harvard, class of 1725 (?)
1729, [Henry] Gibbs, " " 1726 (?)
Samuel Brooks, Jr.

Only the surnames of Masters Cutter and Gibbs appear in the Treasurer's record, but as it was a common practice for young graduates of Harvard College to teach such schools in the surrounding towns, and as we know that later some of our teachers were graduates, it seems but natural to look to Harvard for the record of

these men. We find that an Ammi R. Cutter was graduated in the class of 1725, and a Henry Gibbs in 1726; possibly, then, these were our teachers. Mr. Gibbs seems to have taught two years and was undoubtedly the last man to teach in the Willis house, where Henry Davison organized the first school. Samuel Brooks, Jr., taught at the same time with Mr. Gibbs, and was probably located at the west end of the town.

The first master of the school in its new building was undoubtedly Thomas Tufts, Jr., born in Medford, 1712, graduated from Harvard in 1732.

In this new building on the low land by the side of the second meeting-house the school flourished and increased in numbers. The Order Books of the Selectmen, which are fairly complete and in perfect condition from 1735, give us frequent and interesting information. We learn that Jona. Watson made "forms and tables for the Scoole House" in 1738, receiving £1–15s. therefor. The increasing number of boys who were seeking an education, as well as the excellent jack-knives with which each was equipped, made such repairs and additions frequently necessary. A luxury for the teacher was introduced in 1740, our town fathers in that year making this entry in their Order Book: "Sum Time in May last Gave order to Jeams perry for a Grat Chaier for the Scool Hous, 14s." Joseph Manning, who was the master from March, 1737, to March, 1738, and again 1739 to 1740, may have been the first to enjoy this luxury, though the honor may be disputed by William Vinal, who taught 1740 to 1742. This chair is heard from again twenty years later, after twelve different masters had enjoyed its comforts. In 1761 the Selectmen gave another order to James Perry for mending this "grat chaier." Samuel Payson, master from November, 1760, to March, 1762, was the occupant at the time of its decrepitude. But James mended it so well that it went on twenty-five years more, when again it gave way dur-

ing the administration of Master Gannett, in 1786. As James Perry was not on hand to repair it, the work was done by Willis Hall, and nothing further is heard from it.

The financial stress which culminated in a petition for relief to the "Great and General Court for His Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay," May 20, 1735, may have been responsible for the delay in building the school-house. In this petition they say "that the said town is of the smallest extent of any in the Province, and yet their town charges extremely high, so that the maintenance of ministry and school is very chargeable to them and therefore praying for a grant of some of the waste lands of the Province to be appropriated for the support of the ministry and schoolmaster in said town." In answer to this petition one thousand acres were granted and laid out to the town between the Merrimac and Piscataqua rivers.

When the school was changed from a three or four months' term in the winter to an annual school we cannot determine accurately, but it was doubtless about coincident with the building of this first house, in 1732. We know that in 1735 there was a continuous session, only four weeks out of the fifty-two being allowed for vacation. The salary paid at this time was £5 a month. As the petition for relief was presented early in 1735 it seems fair to assume that the school was an annual one previous to this time, for the old rate of a pound a month for three months that was paid to the first teacher would not seem a sufficient burden from which to ask the General Court to give relief. From this time on the vacations were few, occurring at irregular intervals and mostly between the resignation of one master and the installation of his successor. William Whitmore, appointed master in September, 1744, resigned January, 1747. There was a vacation from that time till Caleb Upham took the office the April following. A still longer interval occurred between his resignation in January, 1748, and the appointment of Samuel Angier in

August of the same year ; but for the most part a new master seems to have been ready to take up the burden immediately on the resignation of the other.

That the school as first established was of a very elementary character is certain ; that later it became of higher grade likewise seems as certain from the indirect evidence. In the eulogy of Gov. John Brooks delivered before the Massachusetts Medical Society by Dr. John Dixwell, quoted in Brooks' "History of Medford," he says : "Dr. Tufts observed the anxiety of the mother to elevate her son to a superior station in life, and encouraged her to give him as good an education as their finances would permit. He was accordingly placed at the town school, where he was taught the rudiments of science and the Latin and Greek languages. Such was his proficiency in his scholastic studies, etc., that he secured the friendship of Dr. Tufts, who took him into his family at the age of fourteen to educate him for his profession." These subjects were taught in our school, then, before 1766. Dr. Brooks was born in Charlestown, Symmes Corner, in 1752, but this had become a part of Medford in 1754, so the town school referred to must have been our own, and not that of Charlestown. The school must by this time have lost its elementary character as indicated by the early votes previous to the town owning its building, and have assumed that of a grammar school or one fitting for college. When this change was made we have no means of knowing with definiteness, but the evidence from the amount of salary paid the masters, and the increase in length of the school-year, would place it not far from the time when the town built its first school-house, in 1732. Medford has always been a law-abiding place and she probably complied with the law requiring towns of one hundred families to support such an advanced school. The teachers in this first school-house were all college graduates, as well as most of those in the second building. This statement is made with posi-

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tiveness, though the evidence is wholly by inference. The men who taught our school bore the same name as graduates of Harvard College of about the same date, and, as several of these are a little unusual, it seems fair to infer that they were the same person. A John Feveryear taught the town school from September, 1752, to April, 1753, and a John Feveryear was a graduate of Harvard in 1751; naturally we infer they were one and the same person. Christopher Bridge Marsh was graduated from Harvard in 1761, and a man of the same name was a teacher in Medford from March, 1762, to January, 1763. A glance at the list of teachers from 1732 to about 1792 will show several such instances. In compiling the lists of teachers for this paper the dates of the beginning and the end of their terms of service are given, also the year when a person of the same name was graduated from Harvard College. The brief biographical information given is of the man graduated from the college, in the hope that at some future time evidence will be brought forward connecting the two beyond a doubt.

TEACHERS IN FIRST SCHOOL-HOUSE 1732-1771

| From | To | | Harvard Class | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1732 | | Thomas Tufts, Jr. | 1732 | born, Medford, 1712 |
| 1733 | | Solomon Page | 1729 | b. 1710 Hampton, N.H. d. 1788 Bath, Me. |
| 1735 | Jan.–Aug. '36 | Edward Upham | 1734 | entered college from Malden |
| 1736 | Dec.–Mch. '37 | John Sprague | 1730 1737 | |
| 1737 | Mch.–Mch. '38 | Joseph Manning | 1730 | from Cambridge d. at Woburn |
| 1738 | Mch.–June, '38 | John Sprague | 1737 | |
| 1738 | – | Daniel Emerson | 1739 | |
| 1739 | | Joseph Manning | 1730 | |
| 1740 | '42 | William Vinal | 1739 | from Boston |
| 1742 | Oct.–Sept. '44 | Andrew Boardman | 1737 | from Cambridge |
| 1744 | Sept.–Jan. '47 | William Whitmore | 1744 | b. Medford, 1725 d. Mch. 10, 1760, of small pox |
| 1747 | April–Jan. '48 | Caleb Upham | 1744 | from Malden |
| 1748 | Aug.–May, '51 | Samuel Angier | 1748 | from Cambridge, d. 1775 |
| 1751 | 1 month | Cotton Tufts | 1749 | b. 1732 Medford. |
| 1751 | Aug.–June, '52 | John Wiswall | 1749 | from Boston, b. 15 Apr. 1731 |

| From | To | Harvard Class | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1752 July–Aug. '52 | William Symmes | 1750 | b. 21 Aug. 1729, Charlestown |
| 1752 Sept.–Apr. '53 | John Feveryear | 1751 | |
| 1753 Sept.–June, '58 | Samuel Angier | 1748 | from Cambridge |
| 1758 Sept.–Feb. '60 | William Whitmore | 1744 | d. Mch. 10, 1760, small pox |
| 1760 July–Oct. '60 | Roland Green | 1758 | from Malden |
| 1760 Nov.–Mch. '62 | Samuel Payson | 1758 | from Walpole |
| 1762 Mch.–Jan. '63 | Christopher Bridge Marsh | 1761 | from Boston |
| 1763 Jan.–June, '66 | Samuel Angier | 1763 | from Lexington |
| 1766 June–Dec. '66 | Alexander Sears Hill | 1764 | from Boston |
| 1767 Jan–Sept. '68 | John Page | 1765 | from Boston |
| 1768 Oct.–July, '69 | Asa Dunbar | 1767 | from Bridgewater |
| 1769 Aug.–Aug. '71 | Daniel Newcomb | 1768 | from Norton |

Girls first had the privilege of attending the Town school in accordance with a vote passed May 13, 1766, "that the Com^te^ have power to agree with their Schoolmas^tr^ to Instruct Girls 2 Hours in a Day after the Boys are dismissed." That the committee exercised this new power is shown by an entry in the Selectmen's Order Book. To Alexander Sears Hill, Harvard 1764, belongs the distinction of first teaching the girls of Medford in her public school. The Selectmen record an order Jan. 19, 1767: to Alex. Sears Hill for teaching 6 m. £24–13, "from June 23 to Dec. 23, 1766 part of which time he Schooled the Girls as well as Boys." The regular salary of the teacher had been £20 for six months, so we may fairly infer that schooling the girls for six months was worth £4–13s. Brooks gives the date for first giving instruction to girls at public expense as 1776.

Whether girls were taught more than this one season or not does not appear from the records. The next teacher, John Page, received the following summer for the six months ending June 26 the sum of £21–6–8; then for the next six months only £20. Perhaps the experiment of teaching girls and boys together was not a success and was abandoned; though the additional £1–6–8 paid Master Page his first six months would seem to indicate that he rendered some extra service, and it is fair to assume that he too taught the girls a part of the time.

The site of the new school-house was found to be too marshy for comfort, as we infer from a vote of May 24, 1734, appointing Benjamin Parker, Lieut. John Francis, and —— Tufts "a Committee to take care to get the ground about the meeting House & betwixt the meeting House and Scoole House filled up That the Ground may be made commodious and to take the cheapest way they can either by selling the clay in said land or any other way they can save charge to the town." The evidences of this work, together with that required by a vote in 1751, are still visible to those who carefully examine the land on the south side of High street, between Meeting House Brook and Winthrop street, where stood both the second meeting-house and the first school-house.

After this filling of the wet land these twin factors in education, the meeting and the school, seem to have enjoyed a period of comparative tranquillity. But many were still displeased with the location, and on March 25, 1740, it was "put to vote whether the Town would Raise up and Repair the Scoole House in the Place where it now stands." This the town refused to do and appointed Capt. Brooks, John Whitmore, Edward Oakes, Capt Hall, and Samuel Bradshaw "to Consult and discover together to Se if they could propose any Place for the said scoole House to be moved unto where the whole Town might comply To." This vote sounds like a bit of sarcasm, and, as might be expected, the committee did not agree. Then the vote was put "whether the Town would move the Said Scoole House to the corner of Samuel Bradshaws land near by John Reeds Barn and there was a Tye." But those who wished the school moved were in earnest and were not to be discouraged by an adverse vote ; so we find again, May 21, 1740, a motion "to move the Scoole House into the Country Roade betwixt Jon$^{a}$ Bradishe Dwelling House and Mad$^{m}$ Martin's House." This was not carried and another motion was put to "erect a Scoole House in

the place or Places mentioned in last vote abovesaid." This too was lost, and still the *movers* kept up their courage and another motion rather complex in its nature and difficult of exact determination was put, "whether the Town would state a place for a Scoole House in the Senter betwixt y^e^ dwelling house of Mr. Jon^a^ Hall Sen. and Edward Oakes house he now dwells in and Mr. Samuel Brooks and Joseph Tufts House measuring in the Roads to find the Center and the Centers betwixt those Two Centers to be the place at or as near to that as a convenient Place may be obtained." This mathematical exactness did not meet with approval, and no further attempt to move the house was made this year. It looks like the controversy of East *vs.* West again. But this faction was evidently gaining strength, for when on Nov. 16, 1741, it was "put to voat whether they would chuse sum person to make sum repaiers in the Scool House to make it more comfortable for this winter" the motion was lost. Nothing more was attempted until 1745, when it was asked to have a door opened on the south side, which was refused. Nothing could be suggested about this first school-building without precipitating a quarrel. Dec. 5, 1746, they voted "to leave it to the Discretion of the Selectmen to do what they think shall be needful to the Repairing of the School House . . . to make it more comfortable for the winter ensuing." You will recall that it took about thirteen years to secure the building of this house, and then it took almost seven years to get it repaired when it had come to need such attention. The opposition to the location still continued. Nov. 8, 1751, the town refused to order the necessary repairs, but on the thirteenth it was "Put to vote whether the Town will reconsider the above vote, namely to repair the School House where it now stands." This was "passed in the affirmative *upon consideration* that the West end of the Town all above the Meeting house shall repair the School House where it now stands by raising it up one

foot and filling it up with Gravel underneath and repairing the Chimney and Making it Comfortable on their own Cost." May we not fairly infer from this last vote that the whole quarrel was on that sectional issue, East *vs.* West, that from time to time during the whole history of Medford has occasionally been manifest ?

After this the question of moving the school-house was not again brought forward, and for twenty years peace reigned in the town meetings so far as school matters were concerned. But after forty years of service it is to be expected that a new building or extensive repairs on the old one would be necessary.

May 15, 1770, Benjamin Hall, John Bishop, Joshua Symonds, Capt. Thos. Brooks, and Willis Hall were appointed a "committee to provide a spot for a School House Between where the School House now stands and Mr. Bishop's and make Report at the adjournment of this meeting." They seem to have made no report at any time, and the matter was brought forward again at the March meeting, 1771, when it was "Voted to Provide a spott for the use of a Scholl," and also "to Build the School House upon the Land behind the Meeting House on the North West Corner of the Land." Benjamin Hall, Capt. Thos. Brooks, and Willis Hall were appointed the committee to carry out this vote. At this same meeting it was also voted that "the above Committee bring in a Plan or Plans the first Monday in April."

The second meeting-house had been sold and the third one on the site of the present Unitarian Church occupied. After getting better, more commodious, and more central quarters for the church the people's thoughts next turned to the school.

The first meeting-house absorbed so much attention and available money that the school-house was forced to wait. The second meeting-house, 1727, was followed by the first school-house five years later, 1732, and the third meeting-house was likewise closely followed by the second school-house. In the "History of Medford"

it is assumed that this school-house was built in accordance with the vote of March 11, 1771, but at the adjourned meeting in April, 1771, that vote was reconsidered, and it was "voted to purchase a piece of Land of Mr. Jonathan Watson, thirty-five feet square, between his house and Mr. Putnams and to give him for the said land Fifty Mill$^{d}$ Dollars." Also "voted to build a School House upon s$^{d}$ land purchased of said Watson." Thomas Secomb and Joshua Symonds were added to the committee chosen at the March meeting to build, and they were empowered to select the plan for the building. The old house lot by Meeting House Brook was then sold for £38 Old Tenor, and the land on which had stood the second meeting-house and the first school-house was bought by Ebenezer Hall, Jr., for £197 Old Tenor.

The last master who taught in this first school-house was doubtless Daniel Newcomb, of the Harvard class of 1768.

The second building, called by Brooks in his "History of Medford" the third, was probably of wood, and was completed in 1771, as it is recorded that the Treasurer paid, Nov. 26, 1771, to Deacon Samuel Kidder and Jonathan Watson for building a school-house, £73–6–8. Brooks' statement about this building is as follows: "The third school-house stood very near the street, on land now owned by Samuel Train, Esq., about ten feet east of the house he now occupies; and when that mansion house was first repaired, the school-house was moved, and now makes part of the rear of said dwelling." This location must have brought it, in spite of its small size, pretty close to Jonathan Watson's house. Brooks evidently could find no date for the construction of this building, because he had accepted as a fact that the vote of March 11, 1771, meant a building back of the meeting-house, which he infers was of wood.

This location, as well as the building, seems to have satisfied all parties much better than the first one did,

for we find no squabbles over moving or repairing it. The stirring events of these years without doubt so distracted the attention that little thought could be given to matters of small moment. But in the midst of the political excitement the people found time to think of the comfort of the children. Heretofore the only expenditure the town was called on to make for its school was for the salary of the master, his board, and keeping the building and furniture in repair. But at the very time when the various colonies were declaring themselves free and independent of the rule of George III. our citizens resolved that their children should be warm. On May 20, 1776, the town voted to purchase wood for the use of the school at the expense of the town. This had never before been done, and it is to be supposed that the school-master provided the fuel for keeping the room warm as best he could. It is possible that the old tax of three pence per week which the town decided in 1722, "that those persons that send there children or servants to y$^{e}$ s$^{d}$ Scoole" should pay was still enforced to meet the ordinary running expenses. However the payment had been made before, henceforth the expense was borne by the town, and each year the only duties of the school committee are to select a teacher and procure wood. This probably opened their eyes to the wastefulness of heating rooms by the open fireplace. As early as 1744 Benjamin Franklin had invented a fireplace that greatly economized heat, and with less fuel gave more heat and fresh air without draft, problems which our most modern systems of heating and ventilating have to deal with. This fireplace employed the same idea as the fresh-air duct of the modern furnace. The Franklin open stove was an outgrowth of this invention. At the March meeting in 1791 it was voted "to purchase a Frankling or Written house Stove for the School House & the Committee that provides a School Master & Wood be desired to procure it."

How long the action of the committee of 1766 giving the girls opportunity for instruction remained in force we cannot tell, but it must have fallen into disuse either through lack of patronage or unwillingness on the part of the teachers to teach girls, for we find that on April 2, 1787, the town found it necessary to vote "that the Committee that provides a School master be desired to see what he will ask to keep the Girls one Hour in the forenoon and one Hour in the afternoon for four Months & Report at May meeting." No report is recorded from this committee, and no extra salary seems to have been paid. Possibly nothing further was done. Again, April 5, 1790, it was voted that "John Brooks, Benjamin Hall, William Gowen, Willis Hall & Eben$^{z}$ Hall, Jr., be a committee to see what method is necessary with regard to the girls attending the Master's School and report at the May meeting." This committee made a report as requested, and it was voted that the "Girls have Liberty to attend the Master's School the three Summer months." This presumably means that during these months the girls attended at the same hours with the boys.

The first step toward coeducation was thus taken. The older boys were generally emplooed on the farms during the summer months, so that it is likely that the girls and young boys attended at this time, and our citizens evidently considered that the older boys were thus out of the reach of harm.

For some reason or other the presence of the girls in the summer, even with the younger boys, was not satisfactory, as we find the subject brought up again in town meeting June 20, 1794, when a long series of votes was passed which explicitly defined the rights of the female sex. "That in the Future each sex attend school at different hours." "That the Females attend school from 1st May to 1st October." "That from the first of May to the first of October the Public School shall be kept 8 Hours every Day viz. 4 Hours in the morning

and 4 hours in the afternoon except the afternoons of Thursday & Saturdays & such holidays as the Selectmen may Permit, said time to be equally divided between the sexes — during the rest of the year school hours to remain the same as heretofore and to be appropriated to the instruction of the boys exclusively." "That no children whether male or Female be admitted into the Public School under the age of seven years nor then unless they have been previously taught to read the English language by spelling the same. And as this Regulation will probably exclude many who have heretofore attended, therefore it is

"Voted, That the Selectmen are hereby impowered to pay school mistresses for Instructing those Children who are excluded from the Public town school and whose parents are unable to defray such extra expence — And as the great end of the Public School is to furnish the youth with such a measure of knowledge that they may be able to Read and write with Propriety and understand so much of arithmetic as may fit them for the Common Transactions of Life — Therefore voted that the Selectmen and School Committee be desired from time to time to make such regulations in the school as may best answer the above Purposes." This vote was at once put into effect. In the Order Book of the Selectmen, Aug. 5, 1794, is an order for the Treasurer to pay to Capt. Joseph Wyman for keeping Town School three months from May 1 to August 1 and also for keeping two hours each day longer than usual from 23 June to 1 October, 1794 — £36. The previous quarter Capt. Wyman had received £22–10s. After this time his salary seems to have been £10 a month, except from May to October, when it was £12–10s. monthly, making the cost of educating Medford girls £2–10s. a month.

The "great end of the Public School" as here defined indicates another thing with reference to our town school. It has been already stated that our

school was doubtless a grammar school in the English sense, that is, a Latin School preparing for the University. This had been required by the law of 1692 in towns of one hundred families, but owing to the financial straits in which the struggle for liberty had left the people, the laws were modified in 1789, and towns with less than *two* hundred families were required to have only elementary schools, in which the prescribed studies were reading, writing, the English language, orthography, arithmetic, and decent behavior. Medford had in 1794 evidently gone back from the standard set up earlier.

The list of teachers in this second building, as well as in the first, is made up mostly of graduates of Harvard College. In the twenty-four years that this building was used as a public school there were twenty-seven different teachers.

TEACHERS IN THE SECOND SCHOOL-HOUSE 1771–1795

| From | To | | Harvard Class | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1771 | Aug.–Dec. '72 | Jonathan Norwood | 1771 | Entered Harvard from Lynn, b. 1752 |
| 1772 | Dec.–Mch. '73 | Theodore Parsons | 1773 | from Newbury, b. 1751 |
| 1773 | Mch.–Aug. '73 | Samuel Poole | 1770 | from Reading, b. 1751 |
| " | Oct.–Dec. '73 | Thomas Farrington | 1773 | from Amesbury, b. 1749 |
| " | Dec.–Mch. '74 | William Stearns | 1770 | b. 1749, Lunenburg d. 1784 at Worcester. |
| 1774 | Mch.–July, '74 | Jon[a] Watson | | There was a John Watson from Plymouth class of 1766 |
| " | July–Sept. '75 | Moses Taft | 1774 | from Braintree b. 1754 |
| 1775 | Sept.–April, '77 | Seth Sweetser | | |
| 1777 | Apr.–Nov. '78 | Abel Morse | | |
| 1778 | Nov.–Apr. '79 | Edward Brooks | 1757 | b. 1733 Rev. Edw. was chaplain on the "Hancock," returned to Medford 1777, died 1781. |
| | | | 1775 | from Gloucester |
| 1779 | June–June, '80 | Samuel Chandler | 1779 | from Andover |
| 1780 | Aug.–July, '81 | Williams Brooks | 1780 | from Lincoln |
| 1781 | Aug.–July, '82 | George Hall | 1781 | from Medford |
| 1782 | Oct.–June, '83 | Artemas Baker | 1782 | from Templeton, b. 1759 |
| 1783 | Nov.–Jan. '84 | [Henry] Wight | 1782 | " Medfield, b. 1752 |
| 1784 | May–July, '84 | [Frederic / Benjamin] Parker | | |

| From | To | | Harvard Class | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1784 | July–Oct. '84 | Jonathan Burr | 1784 | from Bridgewater |
| " | Dec.–Mch. '85 | George Holmes Hall | 1781 | |
| 1785 | April–July, '85 | Jonathan Burr | 1784 | |
| " | '86 | George H. Hall | 1781 | |
| 1786 | Jan.–Sept. '86 | [Barzillai] Gannet | 1785 | from Bridgewater |
| " | Dec.–Mch. '87 | Joshua Cushman | 1787 | from Bridgewater |
| 1787 | Mch.–July, '87 | —— Holbrook | | |
| " | July–Feb. '88 | Nathaniel Freeman | 1787 | from Sandwich |
| 1788 | Mch–Mch. '89 | Nathaniel Prentiss | 1787 | from Charlestown |
| 1789 | Mch.–Sept. '89 | Cotton Tufts | 1789 | Medford, b. 1771, d. 1835 |
| " | Oct.–Dec. '90 | Nathaniel Thayer | 1789 | from Hampton, N.H, 1769 |
| 1791 | Jan.–Dec. '91 | Samuel Chandler | 1790 | from Lexington, b. 1766 |
| 1792 | Jan.–July, '93 | Luther Stearns | 1791 | from Framingham, born at Lunenburg |
| 1793 | Aug.–May, '96 | Joseph Wyman | —— | —— |

From this list it will be seen that vacations were much more frequent and longer than formerly. From 1758, with the exception of the four months' vacation following the death of Master Whitmore, from small-pox, there had been no vacation of the school unless for a few days now and then until 1773, when there was an interval of the month of August between the resignation of Master Poole and the appointment of Master Farrington. Then these intervals became more frequent. Either the people were becoming more careless, or the boys had learned that the resignation of a master gave them a vacation, therefore they caused these resignations to be as frequent as possible. After 1780 these vacations were frequent and long, and we must suppose that in common with the rest of the Commonwealth the state of education was at a low ebb in Medford, a state which continued well into the first quarter of the present century.

It was during this period of decadence that teaching of music at public expense was first brought up, though not in connection with the school. Yet it is interesting to learn that that branch, which is now a regular part of the public-school curriculum, was considered of sufficient importance to receive public recognition. April 2, 1792, it was "voted to give ten Pounds for the Encour-

agment of Singing for the year ensuing." The same sum was granted in 1794–95 and increased to £20 in 1798. In this year, April 2, a committee of three, Jonathan Porter, Peter Tufts, and Nathan Adams were chosen to "provide a teacher and regulate the teaching of singing." From time to time we find similar votes. In 1808 it was "voted to apply Eighty dollars for the Encouragement of Singing to be applied by the Selectmen." Then in 1815, $50, in 1816, $100, and 1817, $75 were appropriated to the use of the Medford Amicable Singing Society. As Medford people as early as 1862 introduced the subject into their school curriculum, it is interesting to know that their grandfathers were also concerned about this same branch of education.

The meeting-house and school-house had from 1732 to 1771 been closely associated, standing side by side on the same lot, but since then had been separated by one house lot. At the March meeting of 1793 was begun a movement that brought them together once more. It was then voted that Capt. Ebenezer Hall, James Wyman, Ebenezer Hall, Jr., be a committee to find a more suitable place for the school house. Whether the building was outgrown or worn out we do not know, but judging from the size of the lot purchased, thirty-five feet square, the house erected on such a place must have been very small. The final and decisive action came June 5, 1795, when it was voted

"To Build a new school house."

"To Build a school house behind the meeting house."

"That the school house be built of bricks."

"To choose a committee for the purpose of five."

"That W$^{m}$. Woodbridge, Captain Wyman, Mr. A. Hall, Abijah Usher and John Bishop be the committee."

June 22, 1795, it was "voted to give Mr. W$^{m}$ Woodbridge £220 with the old school-house and land, he agreeing to build a new school house agreeable to the Report of the Committee, The Inside to be Finished. Mr. Woodbridge to provide one Stove. The whole to

be done to the Satisfaction of a committee to be chosen for that purpose."

"Voted That Benjamin Hall Esq^r. Thomas Brooks Esq. Mr. James Wyman Mr. Eben Hall Jun^r and Mr Richard Hall be a Committee to see that the School-house is Built agreeable to Contract."

This building was finished before Jan. 15, 1796, for on that date William Woodbridge was paid the final instalment on his contract of £220.

Capt. Joseph Wyman was the last teacher in the old building, our second school-house, as well as the first in the third, the brick house on the land back of the meeting-house, his term of service extending from August, 1793, to May, 1796.

Under the authority to pay at the private schools the tuition of young children whose parents could not afford to do so none seem to have availed themselves of the privilege till the year 1797, when Eliza Francis presented her bill for schooling Mrs. Butterfield's three children and received on Jan. 10, 1798, an order on the Treasurer for $6.84. The town passed the same vote regarding the payment of tuition in 1799, again in 1800, and also in 1801, when they "voted that the Interest of the money Received for the land left the Town by Isaac Royal Esq. be applied to pay the Schooling of such Children whose Parents are unable to pay for them." Payments for tuition of young children were made from 1798 to 1822, even after the establishment of free primary schools. The teachers of private schools who received payment from the town during this time were as follows in the order of their appearance on the books of the selectmen: Eliza Francis, Sally Tufts, Prudence Foster, Mrs. Johnson (?), Mrs. Benj. Pratt, Rebecca Blanchard, Susanna Usher, Abigail Simonds, Lucy Shedd, Hannah Greenleaf, Bethiah Hatch, Harriet Greenleaf, Betsey Stimpson, Susan Hall, Elizabeth M. Bradbury, Nancy Fulton. Mrs. Johnson very probably was not a teacher, for she received on Jan. 8, 1800,

$3.62 for schooling of her children, doubtless a reimbursement for what she had paid out for the purpose to some one else.

With the shortsightedness of the average town manifested when providing school accommodations, the brick school back of the meeting-house was soon outgrown and the propositions for relief that were brought forward seem to have caused considerable turmoil and bad feeling. In the warrant for the meeting of March 12, 1804, was an article "to hear and act upon the petition of Eben Simonds and others for dividing the town school." A committee was appointed "to examine what alteration might be made in the town school and to report their opinion at the April meeting. This whole matter is very important, as it marks the abandonment of a principle in education which gave strength to the town school of Medford through the first century of her history — the principle of concentration. Now came the request to divide not horizontally, that is, by grades and ability, but sectionally, so that each and all schools would have a complete series of classes from lowest to highest. The committee made their report and the original paper, dated May 7, 1804, is on file: "We the subscribers a Com^te^ appointed to consider what alterations are proper to be made relative to school in this Town report as our opinion that it is expedient to make an addition to the present school house sufficient to accommodate half the Scholars — and to Employ two Schoolmasters for the Instruction of the Youth in town to be divided as the School Committee shall think most proper. signed Samuel Swan j. Fitch Hall, Caleb Brooks, Joseph P. Hall, Jon^a^ Brooks, Committee."

April 1, 1805, it was "voted not to accept the report of the Committee, to have the School house enlarged and hire another teacher to instruct half the scholars." A petition signed by Nathan Adams and fourteen others was presented, the selectmen asking for another

town meeting on the subject, and May 1, 1805, it was voted "to build two school houses, one this season, the other to be in readiness for building next Spring."

"Voted to procure a building lot as near Gravelly bridge as possible or convenient and build a school house of wood this season." Capt. Nathan Adams, Benj. Tufts, and Converse Francis were the committee for the purpose. It was further voted at this same meeting "to choose a committee to look out a piece of land at the west end of the town, procure materials and report their doings at the March meeting." Then they proceeded to vote "That the School committee under the direction of the Selectmen shall hire a master and divide the scholars."

The next step in this comedy was another petition to the Selectmen, as follows: "We the Subscribers inhabitants of the Town of Medford request you Gentlemen to call a Town Meating to know the minds of the Town, if they will furnish the Scool house at the east end of the Town and provide a Scool Master to keep in the Same as Soon as the Scool house is ready or any other mater relating thereto."

Signed by Nathan Adams, Converse Francis, Isaac Pratt, and fourteen others.

The meeting was held Oct. 7, 1805, and they "voted To reconsider the votes passed last May for building two school houses," after which the meeting was dissolved. A warrant for another meeting was issued October 10 "to determine whether the town will adopt any new measures to improve the state of the schools and school-houses in the town." October 14 it was voted not to finish the new school-house in the east part of the town. "Voted that the Selectmen be a committee to sell the new school-house and the land on which it stands, purchased for the town."

This land had been conveyed to the town by Converse Francis, and in the deed the bounds are thus described: "One acre, bounded westerly on a lane run-

ning from Malden road to the shipyards and river, one hundred feet, southerly on land of Daniel Copeland twenty six rods ten links, easterly on land of Richard Hall one hundred feet, northerly on land of said Hall twenty six rods ten links to the lane aforesaid." This land in accordance with the vote of the town was sold with the building upon it to Hezekiah Blanchard for six hundred dollars. The record of the deed bears date April 11, 1800. The opinions of the town were divided fairly evenly, for in true "dog-in-the-manger" style it was voted again, March 2, 1807, "That the Town will not enlarge the old school house," then "to reconsider the former vote for not enlarging the school house." "Voted That a Committee of five be chosen to report at the April meeting what will be best to do with the school house." "Voted To reconsider the above vote and that they will have the school house enlarged." "Voted To choose a Committee to enlarge the school house of three, to proceed to make the enlargement without Delay." Nathaniel Hall, Nathan Wait, Ebenezer Hall were chosen the committee. Then, having reached this conclusion, another permanent improvement was decided upon, "to have a well dug in a suitable place for the use of the school," and the above committee were "to dig a well and Fix a pump in the same with a Bason chained on." May 11 of the same year it was voted "to have an assistant employed in the Town School to be provided by the school committee as they may think proper." Then, having decided to be good-natured, they further voted to rebuild the forms and benches in the old school-house and make it comfortable for the old teacher and the new.

Samuel Weed, of Amesbury, Harvard, 1800, was the teacher at this time, his service extending from Feb. 3, 1806, to Aug. 24, 1807. Abijah Kendall began his work in the school July 27, 1807, and was probably the assistant authorized by vote of May 11. Mr. Weed received one hundred dollars a quarter and board, and Mr. Kendall

seventy-five dollars and board. David Bates, of Cohasset, Harvard, 1807, succeeded to Mr. Weed's salary and probably to his position as head of the school, for he received one hundred dollars a quarter and board, while Mr. Kendall still had seventy-five dollars and board. But after Mr. Bates' resignation, Aug. 30, 1808, the two teachers of the school were on an equality so far as salary went, each receiving twenty-five dollars a month and board, which was increased to thirty dollars in 1810. Abijah Kendall rendered the longest service to the town of any of its teachers up to this time, having been in service from July, 1807, to May, 1819.

The people seem to have become entirely reconciled to the old brick school-house after its enlargement. In 1812 they voted to build a Russian stove so as to accommodate both rooms.

After this luxury was installed the girls probably availed themselves of the privileges granted them in such numbers that the school became crowded, for we find a vote May 10, 1813, "that no children under seven years of age be admitted to enter the Town School for females unless by consent of the master and school committee." The girls had been striving from 1766 to get an education at the Town School and probably some had succeeded and by their good equipment converted the town to the idea of employing them as teachers. March 3, 1817, the school committee were for the first time "authorized to employ one or more female Instructors of the Girls at the Town School the ensuing year at their discretion." Abijah Kendall's wife was employed for this work at twenty-five dollars a month and board, and from that time on for about a year and a half the husband draws with great regularity both his own salary and his wife's. She taught with her husband until December, 1818. March 1, 1819, we find the town voting to employ another master in addition to the one now employed. Peter T. Gray was then employed. A committee was also appointed at this

meeting to consider school accommodation and organization, and at an adjourned meeting, April 5, they made a lengthy report to this effect :

" 1st That the town contains 202 families or house holders and that the law requires that each town that contains that number of families or householders shall be provided with schoolmasters for such term of time as shall be equivalent to two masters a whole year.

" 2d that the Town now contains one hundred and fifty nine boys over the age of seven years.

" 3d That the town contains 158 girls over the age of 7 years and neither of the above numbers do contain the children that belong to Doctr Stearns' or Miss Hannah Swan's School, excepting those that belong to the town.

" 4th That the Town contains 117 children of both sexes over 4 years of age and under 7 years of age that require to be taught in the summer season by women teachers.

" 5th We would recommend to have the School Committee authorized to employ one school master the whole year & one other school master for the term of six months beginning about the first of November & that both said schools be kept at the school house by the meeting house.

" 6th That the School committee be authorized to employ three women teachers for six months beginning about the first of May who are to teach the girls of all ages from 4 years old and upwards & the boys from 4 years old to 7 unless they are sufficiently qualified to go to the master's school.

" 7th That one of these womens schools be kept at the westerly part of the town somewhere near Brooks corner so called.

" 8th That one other woman's school be kept at the school house by the meeting house.

" 9th That the other woman's school be kept at the easterly part of the town somewhere near the mile lane so called where a place can be provided for the accom-

modation of said school." Nathan Adams reported for the committee.

This report was accepted and William Ward, Nathan Adams, Nathaniel Hall, Dudley Hall, Joseph Swan were appointed a committee to estimate expense, and report. Thus the first step was taken toward our modern system of graded schools, all taught at public expense. But there was some opposition to public primary schools shown when Mr. William Ward on May 5, 1819, presented the report of this committee in which the statistics of school population given in the previous report are juggled with in such a way as to show no necessity for the recommendation therein made, and this startling prediction is made : " It does not appear to your committee that at no future year will the daily average number of boys and girls who attend the town school ever exceed the average number which have attended the year past." This evidently represented the extreme conservative who is unwilling to acknowledge that there has been any change since he was a boy. The report proceeds " with regard to the 117 children over 4 and under 7 years of age your committee find a vote of the Town recorded June 20, 1794, as follows " : — then is given the vote already mentioned providing for the payment of tuition of those children whose parents are unable to bear the expense. " If the votes of the town are not to remain a dead letter : if the Selectmen still retain the [power] therein contained then it becomes a question how many of these 117 children their are whose parents cannot defray the expense of having there children under seven years of age instructed by one of the many school mistresses that are in Town and whether by agreeing to pay the schooling of such as cannot afford the expence there would be a necessity for new teachers. Your committee find there are six women teachers now in town who have with great industry and to the satisfaction of the parents and children each of them got up a small school and gain their living by teaching those

small children and those women reside in such parts of the Town as accommodate all. Therefore y^r^ committee for the above reasons regret exceedingly that any measures have been adopted previous to a thorough investigation of the subject and do believe that the 117 might be instructed in the schools now kept in town to the intire satisfaction of all parties at a very little expence, certainly far short of the expence contemplated. The Town Schools in Boston give great satisfaction yet the Teachers have daily 150 scholars to attend to, and your committee do believe that one master the year round is sufficient for all the boys that will attend in town."

Having made these observations, they proceed to state that the whole expense the last year was as follows, viz. :

| | |
|---|---|
| "Mr. Kendall | $575.32 |
| " for small children | 30. |
| " for 6 m. women's school | 150 |
| | 755.32 |

"The expenses will be for the present year to carry into effect the report of your former committee and accepted by the Town as follows

| | |
|---|---|
| "A yearly master at $20 | $240 |
| board " 3 | 156 |
| "A master 4 m at $20 | 80 |
| board at $ 3 | 52 |
| " 3 women teachers 25 wks at $4 | $300 |
| "Rent for womens school house | 45 |
| | 873 |
| " more than the year past | 117.68 " |

But in spite of this elaborate protest, evidently in behalf of the dame schools, public primary schools were in 1819 made a part of the school system. The town

disposed of this last report by voting that that part of the report "not relivant to the estimation of the probable expense of arranging the schools" be stricken out and the rest accepted. But these primary schools were more than we understand by that term to-day, for the girls of all ages must attend them, none being allowed in the school of the master.

These schools were established in the summer of 1819, the eastern one at the house of Rhoda Turner, who received "for the use and improvement of a room for a School Room for six months ending Nov. 1, 1819, $25." At the west end, Jedutham Richardson, who lived on the corner of High street and Hastings lane, seems to have benefited by this, for he received on Nov. 6, 1819, "For his daughters Sally and Harriet teaching school from May 1 to Oct. 30 at $2 a week, $51.40," "For boarding the teachers of the school $51.57," "For the use of a room for the Town School $20." Miss Eliza Gray taught the primary school and all the girls in the brick school-house, and Miss Eliza B. Wait, the eastern school, at the house of Rhoda Turner, situated, I am informed, on Riverside avenue near where the Boston & Maine freight-house now stands. Up to the time when these schools were opened, there had been two male teachers occupying the two rooms in the brick school-house, and when Miss Eliza Gray took charge of one room it was necessary for one of the men to drop out. Judging from the books, Abijah Kendall, who had taught for twelve years, was the one dispensed with, for Peter Gray continued teaching after these schools taught by women were established, remaining until April, 1820. Nathaniel Cogswell took charge of the school which Miss Gray had taught during the six months summer term as voted by the town, and continued in office till November, 1820, displacing the master of the boys' school.

There are indications of dissension at the time these changes were made, possibly dissatisfaction with the

teachers, possibly with the system. The school committee advertised for a male teacher in the spring of 1820, and among a batch of letters of application that in some way escaped destruction are those of both Mr. Kendall and Mr. Gray. Neither of them seems to have been acceptable to the committee. Nathaniel Cogswell was continued through the summer, and in the winter William H. Furness taught a term, and as no other man seems to have been employed with him the second room was probably unoccupied.

TEACHERS IN THE THIRD SCHOOL-HOUSE 1795–1846

| From | To | | Harvard class | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1795 | May, '96 | Joseph Wyman | —— | |
| 1796 Aug.– | Dec. '96 | Thomas Mason | 1796 | from Princeton, Mass., b. 1769 |
| 1796 Dec.– | July, '97 | Leonard Woods | 1796 | from Princeton, b. 1774 |
| 1797 Aug.– | Aug. '99 | Daniel Appleton White | 1797 | from Methuen, b. 1776 |
| 1799 Sept.– | Nov. 1800 | Silas Warren | 1795 | from Westown, b. 1767 |
| 1801 Mch.– | April, '03 | Abner Rogers | 1800 | from Hampstead, N.H., b. 1775 |
| 1803 May– | June, '03 | Peter Nourse | 1803 | from Boston, b. 1774 |
| ? | ? | Daniel Swan | 1803 | b. 1781 at Charlestown |
| 1806 Feb.– | Aug. '07 | Samuel Weed | 1800 | from Amesbury, b. 1774 |
| | | School-house enlarged and two schools established 1807 | | |
| 1807 July– | May, '19 | Abijah Kendall | —— | from Templeton |
| 1807 Aug.– | Aug. '08 | David Bates | 1807 | from Cohasset, b. 1784 |
| 1808 Sept.– | Nov. '11 | Noah Kendall | —— | |
| 1812 April– | Oct. '12 | Eliphas B. Jones | | Taught Girls School. |
| 1813 May– | Nov. '13 | Jeduthan Richardson, Jr. | | " " " |
| 1814 May– | Nov. '14 | Samuel Campbell | | " " " |
| 1815 May– | Oct. '16 | Nathaniel Magoun | | " " " |
| 1817 May– | Nov. '18 | Mrs. Abijah Kendall | | first woman employed. |
| | | Primary schools established 1819. | | |
| 1819 Mch.– | April,'20 | Peter T. Gray | | |
| 1819 Nov.– | Nov. '20 | Nathaniel Cogswell | | |
| 1820 Nov.– | Feb. '21 | William H. Furness | 1820 | from Medford |
| 1821 Feb.– | Oct. '21 | George W. Osborne | 1820 | from Boston { b. 1779 d. 1876 |
| 1821 Nov.– | July, '26 | Luther Angier | | |
| 1822 Jan.– | Feb. '22 | Calvin Lincoln | 1820 | from Hingham |
| 1823 Jan.– | Feb. '23 | George W. Burnap | 1824 | from Merrimack |
| 1827 Jan.– | June, '27 | Jacob Gutterson | | |
| 1827 June– | May, '28 | William B. Duggan | | |
| 1828 May– | Sept. '32 | Amos P. Baker | | |
| 1832 Oct.– | June, '33 | Seth Pettee | | |
| 1833 June– | May, '34 | Thomas S. Harlow | | |
| 1834 May– | April, '35 | Alexander Gregg | | High School established 1835 |

| From | To | |
|---|---|---|
| 1835 | May– Aug. '38 | Benjamin F. Tweed |
| 1838 | July– April, '40 | James G. Foster |
| 1840 | May– Nov. '42 | Benjamin F. Gilman |
| 1842 | Nov.–Aug. '43 | Thomas Starr King |
| 1843 | Aug.–Apr. '46 | Aaron K. Hathaway |

HIGH SCHOOL IN THIRD SCHOOL-HOUSE 1835–1844

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1835 | May– Aug. '35 | Charles Mason |
| 1835 | Aug.–Mch. '36 | Luther Farrar |
| 1836 | April–Feb. '41 | Daniel H. Forbes |
| 1841 | Mch.–April, '44 | Isaac Ames |
| 1844 | April–Sept. '44 | M. T. Gardner |

The easterly section of the town, whose early ambitions for a school-house had been so completely buried in 1805, began to show a revival of courage. A petition dated Feb. 3, 1823, signed by Nathaniel Jaquith, Elisha L. Tainter, and seven others, asked for a school in the east part of the town. This was referred at the March meeting to a committee of five persons to consider and report. These five were Andrew Blanchard, Galen James, William Bradbury, Turell Tufts, and Nathan Adams. April 7 they reported that "they have ascertained the number of children living in that district to be of boys from 7 to 16, 56; boys from 5 to 7 and girls from 5 to 16, 80, about 136, and having considered all circumstances of their situation think it reasonable that they should be accommodated with a school house. That it may be placed on the front line of the burying place and that a house of brick with a small out house may be finished at an expense not exceeding $425."

This report was accepted and the Selectmen were authorized to advertise for proposals. Another meeting on this matter was held on May 5, 1823, when it was "Voted that the selectmen be a Committee to contract for building a new school upon the front part of the new burying ground; with a suitable out house, all of bricks, so as the same when completed shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars to be paid by the Town."

To show how much progress, or perhaps lack of progress, had been made in school-house architecture since our first building in 1732, a part of the contract for this building given to Benjamin Pratt, mason, and Thomas Pratt, carpenter, is here quoted: "The said House is to be built of well burnt bricks — in length 28 ft, in breadth 23 ft, in height 10 ft from the stone foundation which is to be one foot at least in the ground below the surface and one foot above the the surface, which last must be of faced Stone. The roof is to be of pine Timber, boarded and shingled and pitched the whole length of the House in the proportion of about ⅓ to the width of the building.

"The walls all round are to be in thickness the length of one Brick of Eight inches in length and of four inches in Breadth. In the front and in the Rear three windows, and one at each end of the House, twenty-four panes in each window, and glazed with good Glass of the size denominated seven by nine. The east window to be placed as the Comm. shall direct; four of the windows to be furnished with blinds painted and hung with hinges above the window frames. There is to be one outside door — — — to open into an entry which is to be laid out five feet wide from the east end of the House the whole breadth with one inch and ¼ Board *tight;* in the middle of which partition a door is to be made opening into the school apartment. The entry is to be plastered on the brick wall, and lathed and plastered above. The apartment for the school to be laid out 21½ ft sq and seats and desks and benches to be laid out and erected according to a plan made by Thos. Pratt, Carpenter. The walls inside are to be boarded up to the lower part of the Window Frames, and above are to be plastered on the Brick work up to the plate from whence the ceiling is to be arched and lathed and plastered and white washed.

"A small chimney is to be built on the Top of the House in the centre of the Building for the purpose of

passing out a stove pipe or funnel. — and a stone step to be fixed at the Door, or inlaid with the foundation. Signed May 5, 1823.

"Turell Tufts — Nathan Adams
"Joseph Swan for the Town."

Medford seems to have been singularly fortunate in one respect at least: she did not drop into the educational decadence after the Revolution so far as many towns that adopted the district system. She never had districts in the full meaning of that word; we find no record of moving schools held first in one "angle" "squadron" or "district," then in another, but her schools were kept in her one school-house. Although we find the town divided later into so-called districts, they were not so in the meaning of the law of 1800, which made each district a separate corporation with power to levy taxes, to sue and be sued. Medford has been spared that degradation. The subject was not even brought up in town meeting till April 4, 1825. The committee appointed at the March meeting on the subject of School Committee and School Districts made the following report: "That they find the whole number of children 14 years old and under to be 525: of which number 159 are under 4 years of age, leaving 366 from 4 to 14 years of age: of which number about 50 will probably attend private schools, leaving 316 to attend the town schools. Under these considerations your committee recommend that the Town be divided into two Districts in the following manner. All inhabitants to the Eastward of the House of Dudley Hall Esq. and on the North side of the river to form 1 District — to be called the East District — and all the Inhabitants on the South side of the river and all to the Westward of said Hall's house, including said Hall's family to form one district to be called the West District. Your Committee further recommend that one schoolmaster be employed to each District through the year, and that two schoolmistresses be employed in

each district for the term of 6 mos. in each year. Your Committee further recommend that a School Committee be chosen by the Town to consist of three from each district with full power to carry the foregoing arrangements into effect. John P. Clisby. Galen James. Nathan Adams Jr. Report not accepted, but

"Voted — That so much only of said report as provides for dividing the Town into 2 school districts be accepted.

"Voted — That $1200 be raised for support of schools the ensuing year to be expended equally in both districts."

The dividing line between the districts did not please the people, and May 9, 1825, they voted "that that part of this town which lays east of the Mill creek including Stoneham old road, but not the Andover and Medford turnpike be considered as forming one school district."

The west end was beginning to tire of having its school for primary classes and girls kept in a private house, and its first school-house was erected in accordance with a vote passed March 2, 1829, "to build a school house of wood in the west part of the town." This building was pushed forward with great rapidity, for it was finished and the builder paid May 20. The cost was $385 for building and $20 for the lot, on the Woburn road, which was bought of Jonathan Brooks. After this our districts became known as the East, Centre, and West, which designation they still retain.

The location of the West School did not please the people, for very soon after we find its removal urged, and April 4, 1831, a committee that had been appointed to investigate reported "that having examined the ground and the circumstances in relation thereto they find that much the largest number of children who attend school live on the road that leads to West Cambridge and finding that the northeasterly corner of the Town's land by the Poor house will be as near central as any other spot that can well be obtained for that purpose they there-

fore recommend that said schoolhouse be removed and put on to said corner of the Town's land by the poor house . . . expense of removal not to exceed $10 by the Town." Nathan Wait, Nathan Adams, and George B. Dexter were made a committee to carry out this vote.

Something went wrong, for at another meeting called July 29, 1831, Jonathan Brooks, Nathan Wait, and Joseph Swan were made a committee to consider location, and practically the same vote was passed, and again Nathan Adams, Nathan Wait, and Noah Johnson were appointed a committee to move the building. The total cost of the removal was $119.32. This lot was near the corner of Canal and High streets.

The next building came in 1833, when on April 1 the town voted "to build a school house in the Eastern district not to exceed $400 in the whole expense thereof to the town." Elisha Stetson, Galen James, and John Sparrell were the building committee. This house was on Riverside avenue.

In the next year, 1734, we reach one of the most important events in the whole school history of the town. On March 3 the School Committee were "directed so to arrange the Town Schools that the girls shall enjoy equal privileges therein with the boys throughout the year." What was done that year we do not know, but probably something was accomplished or the town would not have been ready for the great stride forward which it took the following year, when, March 2, 1835, it was voted that a committee be chosen to inquire into the different and best methods of conducting public schools in other places, also into the state of our own public schools, to report what improvements, what numbers and kinds of schools are necessary in this town to qualify every scholar who desires an education for the active duties of life. "Also to report on the duty of the School Committee, the Teachers and Scholars." Nathan Adams, Galen James, Caleb Stetson, Robert L.

Ells, and Milton James were the committee appointed and they reported *in print* in April. The bill for printing this report has been found, but not the report itself, yet we still hope that some attic will be found that will put us in possession of one of the most important documents in the educational history of the town.

Thus, then, was our modern system of schools established, with one central high school, two grammar, with male teachers, and primary schools tributary to these. After one year of trial the new system seems to have met the approval of the school committee. At the March meeting, 1836, their report, a copy of which is on file at City Hall, was read but not printed. This is the first report on record of a Medford school committee. The report is given in full in the "Historical Register" for October, 1899. Since then the system has expanded by the addition of two more grammar schools, one in the west, the other in the south part of the town, and by the multiplication of primary schools; but the general plan adopted in 1835 remains essentially the same to the present time.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT.

It seems advisable to publish the earliest records extant of the receipts and expenditures of the town of Medford, as the book which contains them is too much worn for general use. The interests of the historian are doubly served by the conservation of the original records, and by making their contents accessible to the public. L. L. D.

TOWN OF MEDFORD TO SAM[L] BROOKS TREASURER DR

| | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|
| [ ]729 | | | |
| To Cash paid for this Book | £: | 10 | 6 |
| To Cash paid M[r] Cutter for keeping School in y[e] year 1728 | 13 | 10 | 6. |
| To a General Order to pay to Sundry Perſons | 61 | 16 | 0 |
| To Caſh paid to John Francis for Bricks for y[e] New Meet: Ho[se] | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| To Caſh paid to Step: Francis for Iron work for y[e] New Meet: Hou[se]: | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| To Cash paid to Francis Leathe for keeping y[e] Wid: Willis | 2 | 13 | 11 |
| To Cash paid to y[e] Rever[d] M[r] Turell for his Sallary in 1729 | 100 | 00 | 00 |
| To Cash paid to M[r] Stephen Hall being p[t]: of y[e] charge of y[e] Great Com[tee]: | 10 | 00 | 00 |
| To Cash p[d]: M[r]: Bowdoin, for Glaſs & Lead for y[e] New Meet: Houſe | 30 | 00 | 00 |
| To D[o] p[d]. to ffrancis Leathe. for keeping y[e] Widow Willis | 14 | 00 | 00 |
| To Cash paid to Cap[t] Eben[r]: Brooks. being p[t] of y[e] Charge of y[e] great Com[tee] | 7 | 00 | 00 |
| To Cash p[d] to Peter Seccombe, for y[e] aforeſ[d] use | 2 | 00 | 00 |
| To D[o]. p[d]. to Benja: Willis, for Entertaining y[e] Great Comm[tee] | 17 | 13 | 05 |
| To Cash p[d]: to M[r] Stephen Hall, for p[t]: of y[e] charge of y[e] G[t]: Com[tee]: | 2 | 00 | 00 |
| To D[o] p[d]. to Jonath: Bradſhaw, for highway work & his Room | 0 | 12 | 00 |
| To Cash p[d]: to Edward Oakes for his Pew lott & building | 10 | 6 | 09 |
| [ ] D[o]: p[d]. to Lydia Peirce for Sweeping y[e] Meet[ing] Houſe in 1729 | 3 | 0 | 00 |
| [ ] D[o]. p[d]. to John Bradshaw Jun[r]. by M[r] Aaron Clevelands Ord[r]: | 8 | 6 | 03 |
| [ ]o D[o]. p[d] to M[r] Gibbs for keeping School in y[e] year 1729/30 | 10 | 0 | 00 |
| [ ] D[o] p[d] to the Rev[rd]. M[r] Turell for Sall[y]. due in y[e] year 1728 | 57 | 0 | 00 |
| To D[o] p[d] to M[r] Gibbs in full for keeping School in 1730 — — | 10 | 0 | 00 |
| [ ] D[o] p[d]. to Jonath. Bradſhaw, for highway work & his Room | 1 | 15 | 00 |
| [ ] D[o] p.d. to Deac[n]. Tho[s]: Willis, for keeping y[e] Widow Willis | 17 | 12 | 00 |
| To D[o] p[d] to Benj[n] Willis, for his Pew, now W[m]. Pattens — — | 11 | 2 | 06 |
| To D[o]. p[d]. for Flints for this Towns Stock — — | : | 6 | 09 |
| To D[o]: p[d]: To M[r] Turell, in p[t]. for Sallary in 1730 | 28 | 0 | 00 |
| To D[o]. p[d]. to M[r] Bodoin in full for Glaſs & lead for y[e] New (Meeting-Houſe | 29 | 4 | 06 |
| To caſh p[d]: to Dea[cn]: Willis, for y[e] uſe of a Room for y[e] Scholl School Room | 1 | 10. | 00 |
| To D[o] p[d]: To M[r] John Whitmore, for Materials for y[e] | 0 | 14 | 00 |
| To D[o] p[d] To Sam[l] Brooks Jun[r]: for keeping School in 1730 | 9 | 15. | 00 |
| To D[o]: p[d]: To Francis Leathe in full for bording the Widow Willis | 10 | 10. | 07 |
| Omitted Entring before | | | |
| To Cash paid to Francis Leathe on acc[t]. of y[e] Widow Willis | 21 | 14 | 00 |
| To D[o]: paid to Sam[l] Brooks Jun[r] for keeping School in y[e] Years 1730/1 | 4 | 00 | 00 |
| To Caſh p[d]. to y[e] Widow Lydia Pierce for Sweeping y[e] Meeting-(Houſe in y[e] year 1730 | 3 | 00 | 00 |
| To D[o] [d] to y[e] Rev[rd] M[r] Turell in full for Salary in 1730 | 72 | 00 | 00 |

THE TOWN OF MEDFORD TO SAM$^{L}$ BROOKS T[ ]

| | | £ | s | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1729 | | | | | |
| Nov$^{r}$ 17 | To Caſh Rece$^{d}$: of John Richardſon Eſqr | £2 | 10 | [ | ] |
| 1730 | | | | | |
| March 14 | To Cash Rece$^{d}$: of M$^{r}$ Step: Hall p$^{d}$: him by Jno: Hall for not Serv= Conſtable | 5 | 0 | [ | ] |
| 21 | To Cash Rece$^{d}$ of Cap$^{t}$ Sam$^{l}$ Wade for his Pew | 10 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To D$^{o}$ Received M$^{r}$ John Bradſhaw for p$^{t}$: of y$^{e}$ 50000 Loan Int rst | 1 | 1 | [ ] | [ ] |
| May 9 | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$ of M$^{r}$. Will$^{m}$. Patten for his Pew — — | 5 | 0 | [ ] | [ ] |
| 12 | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$. of M$^{r}$ Peter Seccomb for his Pew | 10 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| 13 | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$: of Eben$^{r}$. Brooks Jun$^{r}$. for his Pew | 9 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$: of Nath$^{l}$: Hall for his Pew | 3 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$: of Benja: Tufts for his Pew | 3 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| 14 | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$ of Cap$^{t}$ Eben$^{r}$. Brooks for his Pew | 1[ ] | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To D$^{o}$. Rece$^{d}$. of Richard Waite for his Pew | 3 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| June 10 | To Cash Rece$^{d}$: of y$^{e}$ Truſt$^{es}$: of y$^{e}$ 60000 Loan for Intereſt | 3 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| Octob$^{r}$. 13 | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$ of of John Bradſhaw Jun$^{r}$ Conſtable | 144 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To D$^{o}$. Rece$^{d}$: of Conſtable Stephen Francis | 057 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| Jan$^{r}$: 4 | To Cash Rece$^{d}$ of Benja: Willis for y$^{e}$ Old Meeting house | | | | |
| 1729 | Omitted ſetting down before | | | | |
| July 1$^{st}$ | To Cash Rece$^{d}$: of John Bradſhaw Jun$^{r}$. Conſtable | [ ] | [ | ] | [ [ |
| | To D$^{o}$ Rece$^{d}$: of Andrew Hall, due from the Widow Willis's Eſtate to the Town of Medford | 100 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To Cash Recovered of Richard Waite Conſtable in the year 1728, being a Rate bill | | | | |
| Feb 27 | for Twenty five Pounds, And Costs of Court £5..2..9 all | 30 | 0 | [ ] | [ ] |
| 1729/30 | Omitted Entring before | | | | |
| march 21$^{st}$ | To Cash Rece$^{d}$. of Cap$^{t}$ Sam$^{l}$ Wade for y$^{e}$ Building | | | | |
| 1731/2 | his Pew | [ | | | ] |
| Feb$^{r}$ 21 | To Cash Rece$^{d}$. of M$^{r}$ John Willis on of the Truſtees of y$^{e}$ 50 Thouſand Pound Loan | [ | | | ] |
| | To Cash Rece$^{d}$ of Andrew Hall on y$^{e}$ A[ ]$^{t}$ of y$^{e}$ Widow Suſanna Willis | [ | | | ] |
| | To Cash paid by Dan$^{l}$ Ruſsel Eſq$^{r}$ by Order of y$^{e}$ | | | | |
| 1732 | Justices of y$^{e}$ Infer$^{r}$: C$^{t}$. of y$^{e}$ Coun$^{y}$: of Mid$^{x}$ | 6 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| June | To Cash Receiv'd of Stephen Greenleaf Conſ$^{t}$ | 10 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| | To D$^{o}$. Receiv'd of Stephen Greenleaf Conſtable | 7 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| 1731 | | | | | |
| march 1 | To D$^{o}$ p$^{d}$. by M$^{r}$ Stephen Hall, paid him by Jona$^{th}$: Tompſon w$^{n}$. he was choſen Conſtable | 5 | [ | ] | [ ] |
| 1732 | To Cash Rece$^{d}$ of Step$^{n}$. Greenleaf Conſtable, for | | | | |
| Jan 17$^{th}$ | the firſt half of the Rev$^{rd}$. M$^{r}$ Turells Salary in 1731 | 5 | [ | ] | [ ] |

## HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

### MEDFORD AND THE STAMP ACT.

[The following articles were prepared by pupils of the High School in connection with the work in American History.]

THE Stamp Act, which was passed by the British Parliament in March, 1765, required all legal documents and official papers to be written on stamped paper, and stamps were to be attached to articles such as books, newspapers, etc. The revenue from the stamp tax was to be used for supplies for the soldiers stationed on the frontier to put down Indian insurrections against the colonists. Although this revenue was to be used for the sole benefit of the colonists, they opposed the Stamp Act strenuously on the ground that "no taxation without representation" was one of the fundamental principles of the English Constitution and one of the first rights of the colonists as Englishmen. The people of Medford also joined in opposing the Stamp Act, but in a much calmer manner than was displayed by the rioters of Boston, who mobbed Hon. Thomas Hutchinson and did much damage to his household effects.

On the 21st of October, 1765, a town meeting was held in the meeting-house at 3 P.M. At this meeting it was voted to give instructions to the town representative, Stephen Hall, Esq., especially in regard to the Stamp Act. The people of Medford declared that their rights and privileges had been infringed upon and that the Stamp Act had taken away their privileges as free-born Britons. They expressed "unshaken loyalty to his present Majesty King George III.," and "great veneration to the august body of the British Parliament." They also expressed themselves ready to yield obedience to all laws of Parliament which were agreeable to their own constitution, but refused to obey them if any of their just liberties were taken away. Mr. Hall

was further charged to "be no ways aiding or assisting in the execution of said act," but to work diligently towards having the act repealed.

Although the people of Medford desired to have the Stamp Act repealed, they did not approve of the violent means which the rioters of Boston used to obtain this result, as was shown by the following action :

On Oct. 20, 1766, at 2 P.M., a town meeting was held at the house of Mr. Hugh Floyd to give instructions to their representative, Stephen Hall, Esq., "relative to the losses sustained by sundry gentlemen upon the late disturbances at Boston on account of the Stamp Act." It was voted at this meeting that the town representative "be directed to use his influence, that such losses as were sustained by the Honorable Thomas Hutchinson Esq. on the 26th day of August, 1765, be made up to him, upon his application to the general assembly in a Parliamentary way."

MINNIE W. JACKSON.

## MEDFORD AND THE TEA TAX.

WHEN the rest of the Townshend Acts were repealed in 1770 the tax on tea was kept to help establish the authority of Parliament. Every town resented the tax and took action against it. In November, 1774, a warrant was issued to the voters of Medford to meet and decide what action, if any, should be taken in regard to the selling and drinking of East India tea. At this meeting they "voted that we will not use any East India Teas in our Families till the Acts be Repealed" — and also appointed a committee consisting of Benjamin Hall, Deacon Kidder, Deacon Warren, Caleb Brooks, and others, to post in some public place the names of those found selling or using tea in their families.

Later we find that the town, being informed that "severall ships were already arrived in Boston with large quantities (of tea) on board and severall more

daily expected," therefore, "to Prevent the many formidable evils consequent upon the Success of this alarming & subtle attempts to rivet the Chains of oppression," they

"Resolved 1st That it is the incumbent duty of all free British Subjects in America to Unite in the use of all lawfull measures necessary and expedient for the preservation and security of their rights and priviledges, civil and Religious.

"2nd. That it is the opinion of this Town, that the British parliment have no constitutional authority to tax these colonies without their own consent and that therefore the present duty laid upon teas imported here from Great Briton for the purpose of a Revenue, is a tax illegally laid upon and extorted from us.

"3rd. That sd. India Company, exporting their own teas to the Colonies while charged with sd. duty, has a direct tendency to establish sd. Revenue act.

"4th. That we will exert ourselves and join with our American bretheren in adopting and prosecuting all Legall and proper measures to discourage and prevent ye landing storing and vending and using those Teas among us, and that whosoever shall aid or assist sd. India Company, their Factors or Servants in either Landing, Storing or Selling the same does a manifest injury to his Country and deserves to be treated with severity and contempt.

"5th. That we are ready at all times in conjunction with our American bretheren as Loyall subjects to risque our lives and Fortunes in the service and defence of his Majesty's person, crown & dignity and also as a free people in asserting and maintaining, inviolate our civil and Religious rights and priviledges against all opposers whatever.

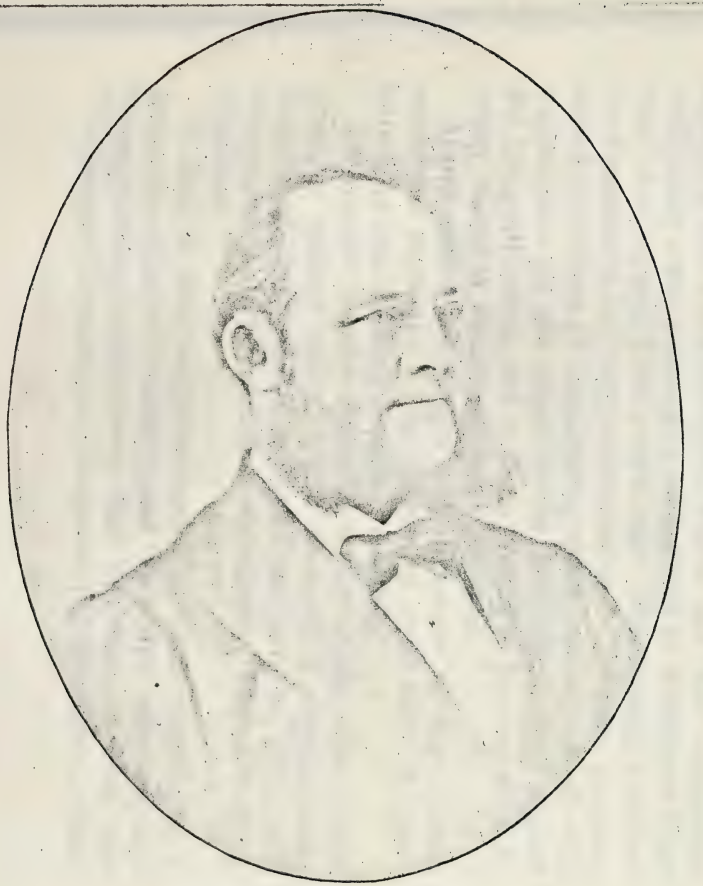
"6th. That the thanks of this Town be and are hereby given to our worthy bretheren in the Town of Boston for their unwearied care and pains in endeavoring to preserve our rights and priviledges free from innovation

and furnishing this and our other Towns with Copies of their late proceedings."

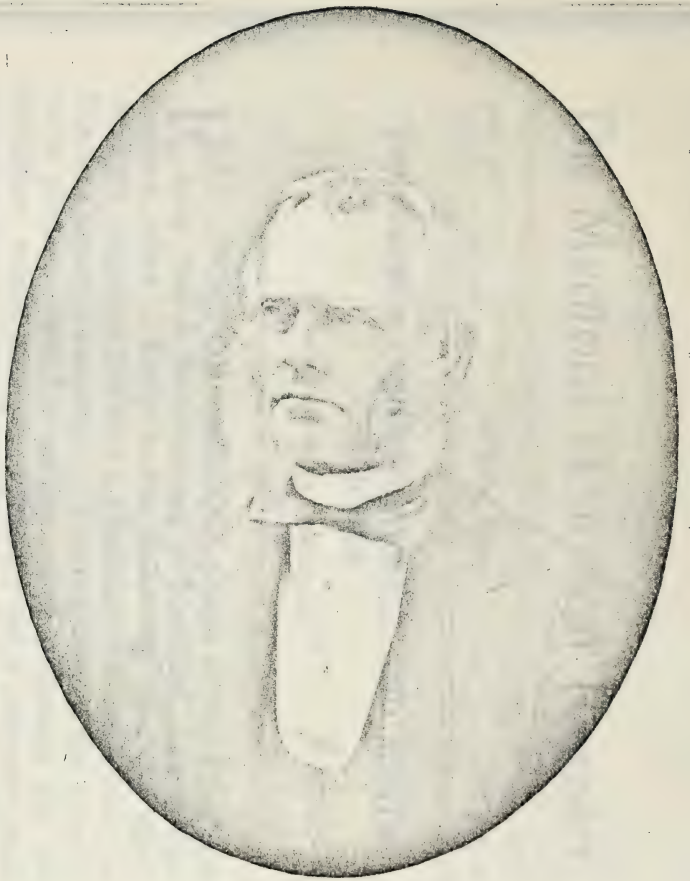
The stubbornness of the King, however, was proof against all such petitions, and a Revolutionary war compelled what a narrow statesmanship had refused to grant.[1]

ELIZABETH ESTES.

[1] For Medford's part in the Revolution, see "Register," Vol. II., No. 1.



REV. CHARLES H. BALDWIN.



REV. JAMES T. McCOLLOM.

The Medford Historical Register.

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# THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL AND MYSTIC CHURCHES.

By Charles Cummings.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, Nov. 20, 1899.]

REV. DOCTOR OSGOOD, pastor of the First and only church then existing in Medford, died in December, 1822. Early in the following year the Rev. Andrew Bigelow became a candidate for settlement as Doctor Osgood's successor. The majority of the church were pleased with his services, and proposed his installation, which took place July 9; but a minority, recognizing that his theological views did not harmonize with their own, deemed it expedient to withdraw from that church, and form a new one. Accordingly seventeen members, in a very courteous and Christian manner, asked for letters of dismission, which, accompanied with expressions of the most tender and affectionate regard for the petitioners, and of deep regret at parting with so many valuable members, were granted.

Many others who were not members of the church withdrew from the congregation to unite with the seventeen in establishing separate worship.

To provide for the financial wants of the new enterprise, a society called "The Second Congregational Society of Medford" was organized June 22, 1823, and incorporated by legislative enactment the following February.

A hall in the neighborhood was soon fitted up as a temporary place of worship, and the pulpit was supplied by neighboring clergymen, and by students from the Theological Seminary at Andover, till October 2, when

the seventeen members from the First Church, with nine members of other churches, who had removed lately to Medford, and had brought with them letters of dismission, were organized into a church by an ecclesiastical council, of which Rev. William Greenough, of Newton, was moderator, and Rev. B. B. Wisner, of Boston, was scribe.

The church adopted a name which corresponded with that of the society, but June 25, 1857, changed it to the "First Trinitarian Congregational Church of Medford." In this narrative, however, it will, for convenience, be referred to simply as the "First," or "Mother Church." The society retained its corporate name till its disbandment after the union of the First and Mystic Churches in 1874.

A Sunday-school was at once organized, its first teachers being three Congregationalists and two Baptists. A movement was also made to erect a house of worship. A spot was chosen on High street, and paid for with money given to the society by the Hon. William Gray, of Boston.

The building, having been completed, was dedicated to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Sept. 1, 1824; and on the same day the Rev. (since Dr.) Aaron Warner, who had been supplying their pulpit for several months, was installed pastor of the church.

### AARON WARNER.

Doctor Warner was born in Northampton, Oct. 20, 1794; graduated at Williams College, 1815, and at Andover, 1819; and preached to seamen in Charleston, S.C., in 1819–23. His ministry continued here a little over eight years, till Oct. 2, 1832, when he was dismissed at his own request. In 1833 he became Professor of Sacred Rhetoric in Gilmanton (N.H.) Theological Seminary. Resigning there, he became Professor of Rhetoric in Amherst College, holding the position for nine years, and died in Amherst May 14, 1876.

His ministry in Medford was eminently successful, the church and congregation having been greatly increased.

### GORDON WINSLOW.

Mr. Warner's successor was the Rev. Gordon Winslow, who was installed June 12, 1833.

Aware that a few of his people were dissatisfied with his preaching, he resigned his office Sept. 21, 1834, after a pastorate of but fifteen months.

The church assembled September 23, and, "recognizing that there were embarrassments in the path of Mr. Winslow's usefulness, voted to grant his request," and at the same time ordered the following record :

"That we respect Mr. Winslow as a man of unblemished moral, Christian, and ministerial character and cannot doubt that under other circumstances and in many parts of the Lord's vineyard he may be a useful and successful minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The council which met on October 15 to dismiss Mr. Winslow prescribed as one of the conditions of his dismission that he should be paid one year's salary "as a just and reasonable compensation for the expenses of a settlement and of those which must result from so speedy a dismission."

The church and society did not accept the condition, and the council was again convened November 12, and decided to dismiss him unconditionally, "appealing to the sense of justice in the minds of the church and people in regard to the amount of compensation." The Society voted that he had been duly compensated for his services and refused farther payment.

### LEVI PRATT.

The next pastor was the Rev. Levi Pratt, who, born in Cummington, Mass., Oct. 17, 1799, graduated at Amherst College, 1826, at Andover Seminary, 1829, preached at Hatfield, Mass., for five years, and was

installed Aug. 19, 1835. He died in office, much lamented, Aug. 9, 1837.

### ABIJAH R. BAKER.

Rev. (afterward Dr.) Abijah Richardson Baker, born in Franklin, Mass., Aug. 30, 1805; graduated from Amherst College, 1830, from Andover Theological Seminary, 1835; taught in Phillips Academy at Andover, 1836–37; and was ordained in Medford, April 25, 1838.

After a laborious and successful pastorate of over ten years he was dismissed by the decision of an ecclesiastical council, and commended to the churches in the usual form Sept. 20, 1848.

During his ministry there were several seasons of revival; the church and congregation increased, and larger accommodations in the house of worship became necessary.

He was an able preacher, and fed his hearers with strong meat, but, while his discourses were scholarly and spiritual, he is said not to have been over-lenient toward those parishioners whose opinions and methods of work did not accord with his own, and that sometimes invidious personalities crept into his sermons. If that were so, the fact may have had a tendency to hasten the formation of the Baptist Church, which drew somewhat from his congregation in 1842, and of the Mystic Church, which took sixty members from his fold in 1847.

He married Miss Harriet Woods, one of the refined and cultured daughters of the distinguished professor of Andover Theological Seminary. After leaving Medford she became the author of several attractive and useful books for the Sunday-school.

They had five sons, of whom one became a doctor of medicine and four became Episcopal clergymen.

Upon his dismissal from Medford Doctor Baker

became an agent of the Massachusetts Sunday-School Society for one year, then preached in Lynn, 1850–56; in West Needham, 1857–63; in South Boston, 1864–66; and was afterwards without charge in Dorchester till he died there, April 30, 1876.

The church, considerably crippled by the withdrawal the previous year of so large a colony, which included four of its active deacons and several of its most liberal financial supporters, remained pastorless for about three and a half years. For one or more of those years the pulpit was ably supplied by the Rev. (afterwards Dr.) Luther H. Angier, who, though a vigorous preacher and a most genial and earnest Christian, could not so perfectly harmonize the somewhat discordant elements in the congregation as to receive a call for permanent settlement.

In 1852 a call was given to, and accepted by, the Rev. E. P. Marvin.

### ELIHU P. MARVIN.

Rev. (afterwards Dr.) Elihu Parish Marvin, born in Romulus, N.Y., in March, 1819, graduated from Western Reserve College, 1842; studied theology under the guidance of different ministers, one of whom was John P. Cleveland, D.D., who was then a pastor in Detroit; preached for several years in Saline and Coldwater, Mich.; came East to improve the health of his children in 1851; and was installed in Medford Feb. 25, 1852.

His eventful pastorate extended through nearly fourteen years, and was the longest enjoyed by any Congregational minister in Medford since the decease of Doctor Osgood.

He was a faithful, whole-souled, and energetic worker, and allowed nothing to come between him and the performance of what he conceived to be his duty.

He was endowed by nature with a sound mind in a sound body, which enabled him to manage successfully

several very important undertakings in which his parish became involved. The church edifice was remodelled and refitted in 1853, and again in 1860, and then supplied with an organ. Disaster, however, awaited the structure, for on September 9 of the last-named year it and all it contained was reduced to ashes. Nothing daunted, Mr. Marvin took the laboring oar and urged on the erection of a new building, which was completed and dedicated June 12, 1861. A new organ was purchased and also the bell which that year had been carried in so many a street parade during the campaign in which *Bell* and Everett were candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States. The same now hangs in the tower of the Mystic Church.

Mr. Marvin resigned his office as pastor in January, 1865, and was formally dismissed November 8 of the same year by the ecclesiastical council which installed his successor.

The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him by Dartmouth College, in 1866.

His resignation was given in order to assume the editorial and business management of the "Boston Recorder," and when that paper was consolidated with the "Congregationalist," in 1867, he joined the editorial staff of the united papers, and was also at the same time the managing editor of the "Congregational Review." Later he purchased and managed till his death a small paper called the "Daily News," in order to advance the cause of temperance, of which he was a stern advocate. He was twice married: first to Miss Elizabeth Burke, of Michigan, and second to Miss Julia A. Carleton, of Charlestown, who, with four daughters and two sons, survived him. His death occurred in Wellesley, Mass., March 11, 1874.

### JAMES T. McCOLLOM.

Rev. James Tomb McCollom was born in Salem, N.Y., Sept. 20, 1814; graduated from Dartmouth College,

1835; was tutor in that college, 1837–38; graduated from Andover Theological Seminary, 1840; was pastor at Pittston, Me., 1841–44; at Great Falls, N.H., 1844–54; at Bradford, Mass., 1854–65; and was installed in Medford Nov. 8, 1865.

He was never honored with the degree of D.D., though deserving it incomparably more than many upon whom it has been conferred. He was every way fitted for his ministerial office, being genial, sympathetic, patient, liberal, scholarly, diligent, earnest, and spiritual. There was a vein of humor in his nature so marked that in college he bore the sobriquet of "Merry Mac," but his humor was always chaste and to the point.

He won the affections of all who knew him, and those who knew him best loved him most.

Farther reference will be made to him in connection with the union of his church with the Mystic in 1874.

After a successful pastorate of nine years he died in Medford, Nov. 25, 1874, the sixth and last pastor of a church which, for half a century, had stood as a beacon in this community. During its existence it had received six hundred and twenty-four members, of whom three hundred and sixty-nine were admitted by profession.

When abandoned, the church edifice was sold to the St. Joseph's Catholic Society, in March, 1876, and the avails, amounting to $8,000, were transferred to the treasury of the united societies.

By his will Mr. Frederick May, who died Sept. 13, 1875, left the Second Congregational Society a legacy of $3,000; but long and expensive litigation among the heirs prevented full payment of the same, and the society was obliged to retain its organization till 1885, in order to receive the last instalment of the $2,683 which were finally realized and passed to the credit of the new society.

MYSTIC CHURCH.

In pursuing the history of this church quotations will be freely made from the semi-centennial address delivered Oct. 24, 1897, by the Rev. Mr. Barstow, its present pastor.

Reference has been made to the unpleasant relations existing between the pastor of the Second Church and some of its members which might have intensified the desire of the latter to colonize. But there were other things that conspired to make them feel that the propitious time had arrived for the formation of a new church.

"The town was rapidly growing, and its business life developing, especially along the line of ship-building (one hundred and eighty-five ships being built in it in the ten years from 1843), and the new railroad was just then opened to the centre of the town." Then, too, the size of the congregation seemed to forebode the necessity of enlarging the church edifice in the near future if there were no separation.

"At the suggestion of Rev. Mr. Baker, the pastor, two neighboring ministers were named by him and two by Deacon James, to whom the whole matter of organizing a new church should be referred, and their advice was to be final. They met on the 29th of March and, after listening to all the *pros* and *cons*, came promptly and decidedly to the conclusion that a new church should be formed immediately.

"Separate worship was begun in the Town Hall on Sunday, May 9, 1847. The largest attendance at any of the nine services held before the church was formally organized was one hundred and eighty-four. The organization was effected July 6, 1847, seven churches and four specially invited ministers composing the council. The sermon was by the Rev. Dr. Kirk, of the Mt. Vernon Church, and the address 'constituting the church' was by the Rev. Dr. Edward Beecher of

the Salem-street Church in Boston." The church consisted of sixty members.

July 29 Nathaniel Jaquith, Galen James, Jotham Stetson and John Stetson were chosen deacons. All of them had held the same office in the mother church, and the last named, who had served in that church for eight years, continued faithfully to discharge the duties of the office till his death, in 1899, in the eighty-eighth year of his age.

The Mystic Society was legally organized Aug. 13, 1847. The land on which the building now stands on Salem street was soon purchased, and a house capable of seating about five hundred persons was erected, and dedicated to the worship of God Feb. 14, 1849. The house contained seventy-three pews, whose appraised value ranged from ninety to two hundred and fifty dollars. About half of the pews were sold to individuals and the rest were held as "stock" by five persons and rented at eight per cent. of their appraised value. Two-fifths of that stock was purchased later by Mr. William Haskins and by his will donated to the society, in addition to four thousand dollars in cash, which is now invested in the parsonage.

Mr. Haskins, though not a member of the church, was deeply interested in its welfare. He died in 1871.

For many years the annual expenses of the society were met by assessing a tax upon the members of the church according to their town valuation, and by the voluntary contributions of those who were not members.

This method was discontinued after 1871, and since the union of the two churches, in 1874, the pew rental system has been employed.

On the twentieth of September, 1847, by a hearty, unanimous vote, the Rev. A. B. Warner (a nephew of the first pastor of the mother church) was called to the pastorate, at a salary of $800.

ABNER B. WARNER.

Rev. Abner Barnard Warner, born in Northampton, Mass., Jan. 8, 1814, graduated from Williams College, 1833, and from Gilmanton Theological Seminary, 1838; held a very successful pastorate in Milford, N.H., from 1839 to 1846, and, having accepted his call, was duly installed pastor of the Mystic Church Oct. 27, 1847. The sermon on that occasion was by his uncle, Rev. Professor Warner, D.D.

After a ministry eminently efficient and successful, as is manifest from the fact that the membership of the church more than doubled during his connection with it, he died, sincerely lamented, May 26, 1853.

During his long sickness the pulpit was supplied gratuitously by neighboring pastors, and after his death the society continued his salary for several months for the benefit of his wife and daughter, who survived him.

His successor was the Rev. Jacob M. Manning.

JACOB M. MANNING.

Rev. (afterwards Dr.) Jacob Merrill Manning, born in Greenwood, N.Y., Dec. 31, 1824, graduated from Amherst College, 1850, and from Andover Theological Seminary, 1853, and was ordained in Medford, Jan. 5, 1854.

He was dismissed Feb. 17, 1857, to become the associate pastor, with the Rev. Dr. Blagden, of the Old South Church, Boston, where he continued till his death, Nov. 29, 1872.

"His was indeed a most noble, useful life, devoted to his sacred calling in that one church, but reaching out and touching many other lives by his voice and pen and in whatever other ways God gave him the opportunity. One of his daughters is now the wife of Rev. G. A. Gordon, D.D., who was Dr. Manning's immediate successor in office. The strong place that he held in the hearts of his Medford people is seen by the fact that

he returned to preach three different installation sermons: Mr. Hooker's in 1861, Mr. Cobb's in 1869, and Mr. Baldwin's in 1875." His memory will live on, a shining example of character, dignity, purity of life, and true worth.

Before his settlement the church had no organ, but upon his suggestion that such would be an improvement upon the stringed instruments then in use, a subscription was at once made of more than enough to secure the desired object.

### ELIAS NASON.

Rev. Elias Nason, the third pastor, was born in Wrentham, Mass., April 21, 1811; graduated from Brown University in 1835; lectured in the South upon Southern flora, 1836; published the "Georgia Courier," 1837; taught an academy in Waynesborough, Ga.; taught school in Newburyport, Mass., 1840–49; was licensed to preach in 1849; was ordained and installed pastor of the Congregational Church in Natick May 5, 1852, and from thence was called to Medford and installed Nov. 10, 1858.

He published several biographies, and a gazetteer of Massachusetts, and edited a hymn book which was used for several years in the Mystic Church. He was a member of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society and of several other learned bodies.

Having received a flattering call from a church in Exeter, N.H., he resigned his office Oct. 17, 1860. The church, being unwilling to part with him, declined to accept his resignation, but united with him in calling an advisory council. That council decided that he ought to remain in Medford. He, in good faith, accepted the decree and began making plans for future work; but new overtures having been made by the Exeter Church, he, in the hope that the health of an invalid son would be greatly improved in that locality, sent to the church a second letter of resignation November 6 of

the same year and was dismissed by a council November 19.

He preached in Exeter four years, and afterwards in Dracut and Lowell, Mass., and Danielsonville, Conn. He died in Billerica, Mass., in 1887. Two sons, Charles P. H. and William W., are now prominent in the ministry.

"Mr. Nason was a man of marked personality, a linguist of great fluency, a botanist of keen penetration, a genealogist of some repute, a musician, and an orator of no mean standing."

He was succeeded by the Rev. E. P. Hooker.

### EDWARD P. HOOKER.

Rev. (now D.D.) Edward Pason Hooker was born in Poultney, Vt., July 2, 1834; graduated from Middlebury College, 1855, and from Andover Theological Seminary, 1861; and was ordained in Medford, Nov. 13, 1861. His pastorate continued till March 31, 1869, when he resigned through a "conviction that some locality farther removed from the sea-coast would be more friendly to his wife's health," and was dismissed by a sympathetic council.

Upon accepting his resignation the church voted the following resolution:

"That unexpected and painful as such resignation is to us, yet we can but feel most sadly the force of the one great reason which is assigned therefor; and we feel that we should not for any gratification of our own, or even for the dearer interests of our church, interpose any check to that tender and dutiful devotion which would best care for the health of one hardly less dear to us than to him. And with these convictions, and on this ground alone, so far as we are concerned, we would make as cheerful a sacrifice as we may, and hereby accept the resignation. And as we go forward with the necessary steps to perfect this action, we gladly

record our feeling that a relation has been thus sundered which, in harmony and usefulness and sweet abiding memories, can come but rarely between pastor and people; and in the future of such a pastor we should be false to these memories and our faith if our wishes, efforts, or prayers were wanting to promote his still higher success or the health and happiness of one so dear to us and him."

During the Civil war Mr. Hooker was drafted for the army, but his people could not spare him, and with promptness cheerfully procured a substitute.

In the winter of 1866–67 there was a deep religious awakening in the evangelical churches of the town, Mr. McCollom of the First, Mr. Preston of the Baptist, Mr. Waite of the Methodist, and Mr. Hooker of the Mystic, with many laymen of those churches, working earnestly and unitedly together. A large increase of membership was the result, forty-four being added on confession to the Mystic Church.

Upon leaving Medford Mr. Hooker preached one year in Fairhaven, Vt., and then for ten years from 1870 was pastor of the church in Middlebury. Jan. 12, 1880, he was installed pastor of the Eliot Church in Lawrence, Mass., from which he was compelled by impaired health to resign in 1883.

Dec. 23, 1883, he began a ministry in Winter Park, Fla., and was installed there Jan. 23, 1886, and held the pastoral office till May 28, 1898. Through his untiring efforts Rollins College was founded in Winter Park in 1885. He became its first president, and held that office for seven years. He was also the president of the Florida Home Missionary Society for eleven years. From overwork in these responsible positions he was completely broken down in health and energy and compelled to seek recuperation in the most quiet way possible. He now resides in Marshfield, Mass.

SOLON COBB.

Rev. (now D.D.) Solon Cobb, the fifth pastor, was born in Carver, Mass., Sept. 12, 1838. Completing a course of study in the academy at Plympton, Mass., he took a theological course at the seminaries in Auburn, N.Y., and Andover, Mass., and was ordained pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Oswego, N.Y., Oct. 11, 1864. From that church he was called to Medford and installed Nov. 3, 1869.

His pastorate, which had been eminently successful, continued till 1874, when, without any other charge in view, he resigned it in the hope "that in a different field of labor he might exert a more decided and perhaps broader influence in the service of Christ."

His flock were unwilling to lose such a shepherd, and chose a committee to induce him, if possible, to withdraw his resignation.

That committee reported "that they could find no inducements to offer for the withdrawal of his resignation that could outweigh his decided conviction of duty to seek another and a different field of labor."

The church then, by unanimous vote, passed the following resolutions :

"That we, as a church, have received the resignation of our pastor with unaffected sorrow and regret ; and that our desire is earnest and united that he should continue his labors with us ; but feeling assured, after our best endeavors to induce him to withdraw his resignation, that he feels the act to be plainly the course of wisdom and duty for him, we do, out of respect to his choice and sense of right, reluctantly accept the same."

He was dismissed May 12, 1874, and, in their "result" the council expressed regret that, in view of the very pleasant relations existing between the pastor and his people, he should have felt constrained to resign his pastoral office ; and they advised his dismissal simply in deference to his judgment.

After leaving Medford Mr. Cobb preached two years in New Bedford, Mass., and one year in Jacksonville, Fla. In 1878 he became pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church in Erie, Pa., which he found small and worshipping in a chapel, and which, after his labor of sixteen years, he left large and worshipping in a commodious and elegant stone edifice, thus realizing his ideal as expressed in his letter of resignation to the Mystic Church.

From Erie he was called five years ago to the Point Breeze Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pa., where he is now (1899) laboring.

## UNION OF THE FIRST TRINITARIAN AND MYSTIC CHURCHES.

For many years there had been a growing conviction among their most active members that a union of the Mystic and the First Trinitarian Congregational Churches would, under existing circumstances, much conduce to the advancement of the kingdom of Christ in Medford, and with the hope of effecting such union the Mystic Church, March 7, 1865, voted "that we desire to unite with the First Trinitarian Church if a satisfactory plan of union can be devised," and thereupon chose a committee of six to unite with a like committee, if elected, from the other church to construct such a scheme if possible. The other church acceded to the proposition and chose its committee.

That joint committee, after considering the matter in its various relations, proposed that the First Church should retain its organization and house of worship, which should be enlarged as necessity required, and that, as that church had no pastor, the Rev. Mr. Hooker, pastor of the Mystic Church, should be settled over the united organizations.

The overture of the Mystic Church was not made on account of any financial embarrassment, inasmuch as

the society always had been and was then on a good financial foundation, but, as it was stated in one of the kind and fraternal letters which passed between the churches, "that the cause of truth and religion would be better promoted by the union."

At a special meeting of the First Church held March 30 the majority of those present favored the union on the terms proposed, but the minority was so large that it was deemed best to let the matter drop, and the subject was not again agitated till 1874. In the meantime a Congregational church, organized at West Medford, had drawn many valuable members from the First Church, which seemed to make it the more reasonable that but one organization of that order should exist at the centre of the town, and the resignation of Mr. Cobb made it the more probable that if the subject of union were again opened a speedy and favorable result would follow.

"The two churches had existed for twenty-seven years side by side, doing their great work always in harmony, often in fraternal union of efforts and means and with the marked blessing of God on their labors. United, it was thought they would by no means constitute an unwieldy body and might at the proper time be better prepared for church extension in any desirable direction." The time and circumstances seemed propitious for action. Accordingly, at a special meeting of the First Church, Aug. 20, 1874, action was taken of which the following is a part: "Whereas, Beyond and above all ideas of finance and economy, it is believed that the interests of Christ's kingdom would surely be advanced by a cordial union of the two churches, therefore it is Voted, That it is the earnest desire of this church that a union of the two churches should be arranged for at the earliest possible day."

A committee of five was then chosen to report their action to the Mystic Church and confer with any committee that church might choose with reference to arranging for such union.

The Mystic Church, by vote, expressed its cordial welcome of the action of its sister church and chose its committee of five.

The joint committee, after due consideration of the subject, with entire unanimity of judgment and feeling, reported a plan of union in seven articles, of which the two principal ones are the following :

"That the Rev. Mr. McCollom, the beloved and respected pastor of the First Church, should be called to the pastorate of the united church," and "That the Mystic Church edifice should be at once enlarged and made commodious and suitable by improvements for the worship of the united congregations."

With a unanimity hardly to have been anticipated, each church accepted the proposed plan, and the societies connected therewith engaged at once, by a committee, in the enlargement of the church edifice on Salem street. The private ownership of pews in that church had ceased either by gift or purchase, so that the building was entirely at the disposal of the new Society. It was enlarged at each end and on the east side and given, in its one hundred and sixty pews, a seating capacity of over seven hundred. The bell and clock taken from the house on High street were placed in its tower. The organ previously used in the Mystic Church was removed from the front gallery, enlarged, and located in in its present position, behind the pulpit, and the organ of the First Church was given in part payment of the sixteen hundred dollars which the enlargement cost. The entire expense of the improvements was over $20,000. A rededication took place Jan. 12, 1876, previous to which the church had worshipped in the edifice on High street.

The formal union of the churches occurred Dec. 31, 1874, when one hundred and eighteen from the First, one hundred and ninety-two from the Mystic, and others, on confession or by letter, made a total membership of three hundred and eighteen. Several months earlier

the dear man who, by the vote of each church, was to have become their pastor when united was stricken with disease and obeyed the call to come up higher, on November 25, at the age of sixty years.

Feb. 9, 1875, the following tribute was ordered to be spread upon the church records:

"That we recognize in this death of our pastor and friend the blended truth so grand and yet so sad, that a wise and good man has passed away; and as a religious body and as individual members of the church we would make this as a more permanent record than has yet been permitted us of our grateful and loving appreciation of his worth and work, and of the public and private bereavement that has come to us in his death; and we would make it as the sincere and historical tribute of our hearts to a character that we feel was pure and true, and to services that we know were faithful and acceptable. In mingled sadness and thanksgiving we say, 'Servant of the Lord, well done!' As the long-tried pastor of those of us who have been of his immediate flock, and as the dearly esteemed and religious friend and teacher of us all, he has in fidelity proved his mission, and established his memory and work in our hearts; and with our entire community we mourn what seems to us the untimely loss of a valued citizen, an able minister of Christ, and so a most useful man. But in the faith which he cherished so long and clearly, we can also rejoice in the belief that our loss is his gain; and in that faith we would feel his new entreaties from the better land to come up higher, and that we can leave *our* and *his* church to the guidance of the Great Shepherd who 'doeth all things well,' and that we should 'keep on praying' that such faith may enable us, as we believe it has him,

> "'"To pass through Glory's morning gate
> And walk in Paradise."'"

In April a call was extended to the Rev. Charles H. Baldwin.

### CHARLES H. BALDWIN.

Rev. (now D.D.) Charles Hume Baldwin was born in Windsor, Mass., March 11, 1838; graduated from Williams College, 1863, and from Union Theological Seminary, 1866; spent one year in special study; was ordained and settled over the Second Presbyterian Church in Peekskill, N.Y., April 30, 1867; was settled in 1869 over the Presbyterian Church in Johnstown, N.Y., one of the oldest and most important in the presbytery of Albany; four years later accepted a call to the Euclid-avenue Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, Ohio, where he labored for ten months, when his failing health compelled him to resign.

In 1874 he married Miss Elizabeth C. McMartin, of Johnstown, and for a bridal trip spent a year in European travel. On his return he accepted a unanimous call to settle over the newly-constituted church at a salary of $3,000 (five hundred of which he voluntarily relinquished after four years of service), and was installed June 30, 1875.

Admirably adapted to meet the peculiar condition of the church, he was eminently successful in his work.

Feb. 1, 1881, he tendered his resignation, and the church by unanimous vote ordered the following record to be made:

"Resolved, That in accepting the resignation of the Rev. Charles H. Baldwin, after a pastorate of nearly six years, we do it with profound regret and with a clear conviction that we are to lose a most active, discreet, and affectionate pastor; a most earnest, faithful, and efficient preacher; a most genial and sympathetic friend; and a citizen most philanthropic and valuable."

He was dismissed February 21, and a week later was installed over a large Presbyterian church in Amsterdam, N.Y., where he labored for the next seventeen years, till

an affection of the throat demanded for him a change of climate. From Amsterdam he went to Des Moines, where in one year he put new life into a small church which seemed almost ready to die, and placed it upon a firm foundation. Thus ended his thirty-two years in the ministry, and, excepting the year spent in Europe, he had been in constant service, having preached every farewell one Sabbath evening and his opening sermon to the new people the following Sabbath morning.[1]

He was succeeded by the Rev. T. P. Sawin.

### T. P. SAWIN.

Rev. (now D.D.) Theophilus Parsons Sawin, the seventh pastor, a son of Rev. T. P. Sawin, Sr., was born in Lynn, Mass., Jan. 14, 1841; was a member of the class of 1864 in Yale University, and was professor of Latin and mathematics in the Milwaukee Academy from 1865 to 1871, and at the same time was engaged to some extent in journalistic work. His professional education was wholly private. He was ordained at Racine, Wis., Dec. 1, 1871, and preached in the Congregational Church there for four years; then was called to the Congregational Church in Janesville, Wis., where he preached till he came to Medford.

During his pastorate in Janesville, being much interested in education, he was, by State appointment, made a visitor to the Normal School at Whitewater and a lecturer before the Teachers' Associations.

He was installed in Medford Nov. 16, 1881, and dismissed May 12, 1886, to assume the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church in Troy, N.Y., where he has most successfully labored to the present time.

By a unanimous vote of the church the following record was made April 27, upon the receipt of his letter of resignation: "Though extremely reluctant to part with a pastor who has been so successful among

[1] Rev. Charles H. Baldwin, D.D., died at Beaman, Iowa, Nov. 26th, 1899.

us and is so highly esteemed by all his flock, we yet recognize the importance of the position to which he has been called, and therefore, though with sincere regret, accept his resignation."

Rev. James L. Hill was his successor.

### JAMES L. HILL.

Rev. James Langdon Hill, D.D., a son of Rev. James J. Hill, one of the eleven who, upon graduating from Andover Theological Seminary in 1843, went to Iowa to establish Congregationalism in that new and distant territory, was born in Garnavillo, Iowa, March 14, 1848.

He graduated from Iowa College in 1871 and from Andover Theological Seminary in 1875. Sept. 15, 1875, he was ordained and installed as pastor of the North Church, in Lynn, Mass. From that church he was called to Medford, and installed Jan. 12, 1887.

After a pastorate of more than seven years he read his letter of resignation March 4, 1894, and a special meeting of the church was called to act upon it March 13. At that meeting remarks were made by the officers of the church, and many others, all expressive of their exceedingly pleasant and tender relations with the pastor, their kind and pleasant remembrance of his work for our church and in our city, and their sincere regret that a termination of his active personal labors here was proposed.

Upon accepting his resignation the church voted unanimously as follows :

"That this church has heard with great regret our pastor's letter of resignation and desires to place on record its appreciation of his pure Christian character, his consistent life and faithful teachings, and his devotion and loyalty in the service of this church."

A council representing seventeen churches was convened April 25, and, having reviewed the action of pastor and people, voted to dismiss him. In their "result," the following is embodied :

"The council expresses its high appreciation of the courteous and Christian conduct of both pastor and people in this conference, one with the other, and the integrity and simplicity of motive leading to the severance of the sacred relation of pastor and people.

"The council also recognizes those happy and sterling qualities of mind and heart which have made Brother Hill's ministry so earnest and fruitful in the training and efficiency of his own church in this growing city, also those generous traits of sympathy and enthusiasm which he has ever manifested in the work of the churches of our Woburn conference, and especially those large gifts of devotion and loyalty to the Master and his great work, which we feel sure will still enrich the churches in the wider fields of Christian consecration to which he may be called."

Upon leaving Medford Dr. Hill retired to the city of Salem, and devoted his entire energy to literary work.

JOHN BARSTOW.

Rev. John Barstow, a son of Rev. E. H. Barstow, was born in Newton Centre, Mass., Feb. 16, 1857; graduated from Dartmouth College, 1883; spent two years in Hartford Thelogical Seminary, then one year in foreign travel, and graduated from Andover, 1887; was ordained in Groton, Mass., June 29, 1887; was installed in Glastonbury, Conn., Nov. 19, 1889; and from that church was called to Medford and installed Jan. 2, 1895.

During his pastorate of less than five years the church has received one hundred and sixty-six members, a larger number than the admissions under any other pastor.

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Including the sixty charter members, and the one hundred and eighteen received from the First Church, the total membership to the present time (Nov. 6,

1899) has been one thousand and twenty-six (1,026), of which four hundred and thirty-four (434) have been received on their confession of faith.

The present membership is four hundred and forty-seven (447).

It is fitting that in closing this narrative brief reference should be made to one layman whom both churches have been especially delighted to honor. The name of Deacon Galen James heads the list of charter members in each of the two colonies. In many ways he was a wonderful man. One of his leading attributes was his practical common sense. His convictions were intensely strong and his persistence in acting upon them was phenomenal. Whether convinced that the town ought to have a high school, or that the Congregationalists ought to have a better newspaper to speak for the denomination, or that a new church should be organized, he allowed no obstacle to block his way to the realization of his conviction. Had he been a mere worldling he would have been a menace to society, but, being thoroughly consecrated in heart, head, and *purse*, he was eminently qualified for leadership. He was born in 1790 and died in 1879.

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## THE HIGHWAY OR CANAL THROUGH LABOR IN VAIN POINT.

By John H. Hooper.

THE first great highway connecting the settlement at Mistick with the other settlements on Massachusetts bay was the Mistick river. After the building of Mistick bridge, no other bridge spanned its waters so as to interfere with its free navigation until the building of Malden bridge, which was opened to public travel Sept. 29, 1787. Governor Cradock's interests in trading and fishing, and, after his death and the sale of his estate, the growing commerce of the town, required

many boats or lighters on the river, and the management of these boats or lighters gave employment to a hardy class of men called boatmen or lightermen. The navigation of the Mistick river with this class of vessels was no easy task. With sails, oars, poles, and the towline, assisted by the incoming and outgoing tide, did those hardworking men pursue their arduous employment. The tortuous channel of the river winding through the marshes sometimes caused a journey of nearly half a mile, when in a straight line the distance to be travelled was only a few rods. One particular curve in the river, near the foot of Foster court, by reason of the difficulties of its navigation was called Labor in Vain point. For one hundred and thirty-one years several generations of boatmen labored almost in vain round this point.

The first successful attempt at straightening the river, and to remedy this obstruction to navigation, was made in the year 1761, when a number of the inhabitants of Medford petitioned the Court of General Sessions of the Peace for a new highway across a point of salt marsh and flats in Medford called Labor in Vain point. The court appointed a committee to view the premises, and to report upon the necessity and convenience of the proposed highway.

The committee reported that a highway at the place above mentioned was both necessary and convenient, and the court thereupon appointed a new committee to lay out the way and to estimate the damage that might accrue to any person or persons in their property by the laying out of said way.

April 21, 1761, the committee reported as follows :

" We the subscribers have viewed and laid out the highway therein set forth, with as much convenience to the public and with as little prejudice to private property as (in our judgment) can be, which highway is bounded westerly by the dividing line between Col. Isaac Royall and Samuel Brooks, Esq., and easterly

by the stakes set up in the aforesaid Samuel's marsh, as the same now stand, leaving two rods between the last-mentioned stakes and the channel proposed to be cut through the aforesaid marsh. And are of the opinton that the damage that accrues to the said Samuel Brooks, Esq., by laying out the aforesaid highway is thirty-three pounds six shillings and eight pence."

The way was laid out twelve rods wide, and the town paid Samuel Brooks the amount of the award. This return of the committee was accepted by the court, and it was ordered to be recorded, so that the same might be known and used as a public highway.

This laying out of the highway was not satisfactory to the town of Medford, for at a meeting of the court, held Dec. 8, 1761, the Selectmen petitioned that the width of the way be reduced to six rods, and that the remainder of the old way be discontinued. The court appointed a committee to inquire into the expediency of making the change. The committee, after due examination of the premises, reported in favor of the petitioners ; the court accepted the report and ordered that the width of the way be reduced to six rods, and that the remainder of the old way be discontinued. This action of the court was anticipated by the town, for at a meeting held May 13, 1761, a committee was appointed "to cut a canal through Labor in Vain point, the work to be done by subscription; and authorized them when the canal was cut, to sell and convey such part of the marsh which the town paid Samuel Brooks, Esq., for, as should be more than sufficient for a highway across Labor in Vain point." The committee proceeded to cut the canal, and Dec. 14, 1761, only six days after the court had reduced the width of the highway, sold to Isaac Royall, for the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence, that part of the old way that had been discontinued, "*together with all the mud and turf thrown and now laying on said marsh.*" Samuel Brooks quitclaimed to Isaac Royall

all his right, title, and interest in and to the above-named piece of marsh.

It is possible that the canal was not cut to its present depth at that time, but that the action of the tides may have rendered very material assistance to the undertaking.

## THE BOSTON MASSACRE.

THE "Boston Gazette and Country Journal" of March 12, 1770, in a list of those killed and wounded upon March 5th, mentions "a lad named John Clark about 17 years of age, whose parents live at Medford, and an apprentice to Capt. Samuel Howard of this town; wounded, a ball entered just about his groin and came out at his hip, on the opposite side, apprehended he will die."

By the records in the City Clerk's office, this John Clark appears to have been the son of John and Mary (Smith) Clark, born in Medford, June 10, 1752, and baptized by the Rev. Ebenezer Turell on June 14th of the same year. He died in Medford on the 26th of May, 1778. L. L. D.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number previously reported . . . . . | 256 |
| Rev. Charles W. Loomis . . . . . | 1 |
| | 257 |

Honorary Members.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hon. T. S. Harlow, M. E. Chandler, Charles Cummings . . . . . | 3 |
| | 260 |
| Deaths, 4; dropped, 3; withdrawals, 7 . . . . . | 14 |
| | 246 |

# MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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For Year ending March, 1901.

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JOHN H. HOOPER.

**Vice-Presidents.**

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WILLIAM CUSHING WAIT, CHARLES H. LOOMIS.

**Recording Secretary.**
JESSIE M. DINSMORE.

**Corresponding Secretary.**
WALTER H. CUSHING.

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**Photographs.**

W. C. EDDY, JOHN H. HOOPER,
R. J. P. GOODWIN.

# A BUSINESS MAN OF LONG AGO.

By Helen T. Wild.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, Jan. 15, 1900.]

IN 1662 Widow Mary Hall united with the church at Cambridge, Mass., and received land grants in that town.

Her son John bought lands in Medford in 1675, and the family has been represented there ever since.

The first mention of Hall on the Town Records is on page 1 of volume 1, dated 1678: "Goodman Hall, Jr., by money (for ammunition) 0–05–0."

Goodman John Hall was chosen Constable in February, 1677, and the same year was elected Selectman.

Jan. 17, 1684, the first tax list on record has John Hall's name in the third place — Jonathan and Nathaniel Wade preceding him. In those days the leading men stood at the head of the list. Alphabetical order was never thought of.

In 1677 John Hall, Jr., took the oath of fidelity.

In 1687 his name appears on the tax list for the first time, being number twelve in a list of thirty-two.

The first John Hall died in 1701. In 1718 his son appears on the records as Mr. He held the title till his death. In 1724 the third John, as the head of the family, inherited the title. He was a distiller and was a pioneer in making Medford rum.

His younger brother, Andrew, born in 1698, was the father of Benjamin Hall.

Very early in life Andrew Hall developed a liking for land speculation. In 1721, when he was only twenty-three, we find records of his investments.

By 1740 he had acquired a great deal of land, which has stood in the family name till recent years.

In 1735 John Hall sold his still-house and the land whereon it stood "with all Rights Titles priviledges proffits and advantages water and water Springs

and Heredittaments Thereof with All Appurtenances Thereunto belonging and all That is Thereon Standing and Growing and all that Ever Shall Grow Thereon"[1] to his brother Andrew Hall, trader.

In another deed, dated 1739, Andrew Hall is called "Boatman." He held the two titles because he was interested in trading with inland farmers, carrying their produce down river by boats or lighters, and returning with goods from ships arriving in Boston from foreign ports.

He died in 1750. He left five sons, Andrew, Benjamin, Richard, Isaac, and Ebenezer. All were prominent in Medford except Andrew, who settled in Boston in early life.

Benjamin Hall became a leading spirit in the business and civil affairs of the town.

The secret of his success is found in his own account of his life, which comes to us in his own handwriting. "When My Father Died I was a Little Over 19 Years of Age. I then began to Trade for Myself. I allways Made it my Rule to Comply with All My Engagements whether they were in My Favour or Not. I First Lett My Self to my Brother Andrew as Foreman of My Father's Distill House which he Hired of one Year and a Half, for which he gave me Eighty Pounds Lawfull Money.

"After that I Hired itt for Eighteen Months which time on[e] Timothy Fitch was in Partnership with me soon after that the administrator of my Father's Estate sold itt at Vendue I purchased itt and Carried the same on for Fifty on[e] Years and then Quitted business."

He was also interested in other commercial ventures. He and his brother Ebenezer carried on a slaughtering establishment where about fourteen hundred head of cattle were killed every year.

The old building on the north bank of the Mystic

[1] The only punctuation-mark in the whole deed is one hyphen, written =, and placed at the beginning instead of end of the line.

where this work was done was standing until recent years.

The hides were delivered to Ebenezer, who was a tanner; the tallow to Benjamin, who made it into candles. The beef was readily disposed of to the inhabitants of the town and the traders and farmers who made Medford a rendezvous.

Until 1754 all the lands south of Mystic river and a large tract northwest of the village belonged to Charlestown.

The village on both sides of the river was called Mystic for convenience, but Medford was only a strip of land one mile wide by three in length, on the north bank.

On petition of the citizens of Medford, many of whom owned lands in the territory of Charlestown, Medford's boundaries were established by the General Court nearly as at present.

The most important change made since then was the setting off of a tract of land including what is known as "Symmes Corner," when Winchester was incorporated.

From 1754 to 1805 Medford was in the height of its prosperity as a commercial town.

In colonial times Cradock bridge, in Medford, was the only one connecting Boston with the country on the north. A ferry between Charlestown and Boston accommodated travellers, but no heavy merchandise was transported by it.

Goods arriving at Medford by teams from inland towns were transferred to Hall's lighters, and "boated" down the river.

Benjamin Hall was certainly a monopolist, though the term was not common in his day.

The manufacture of rum necessitated barrels. A cooper's shop was the result. So, in the prime of life, Captain Hall, as he was called, was a distiller, a tallow chandler, a cooper, a "boatman," and a general trader.

Goods of all kinds, from thread lace to Russia iron, could be bought in Medford as cheaply as in Boston. There was only one store in the vicinity which approached Mr. Hall's in amount of business.

An inventory dated 1793 shows the variety of his stock :

| | |
|---|---|
| " 49 bbls of Pearlash. | 18$^{m}$. 20 d Nails. |
| 7760 lb. Butter. | 471 lb. cotton wool. |
| 48 casks flaxseed | 2 boxes 100 ft. each 10x8 glass. |
| 150 hard hogsheads on four hoops. | 500 lb. salt petre. |
| | 220 lb. alspice. |
| 17$^{m}$ hogsheads staves. | 371 gal. N.E. rum. |
| 270 bbls. of beef. | 13 tons Russia iron. |
| 102 bbls of pork. | 2160 lb. German steel. |
| 800 hogsheads of lard. | 1500 lb. coffee. |
| 285 gallons of wine. | 70 hogsheads of salt. |
| 138 gallons brandy. | 15$^{m}$ boards. |
| 1900 lb. Bohea tea. | 4542 gal. Molasses. |
| 2236 lb. Loaf Sugar. | 2090 gal. N.E. rum. |
| 310 rum barrels. | 114 cords wood." |

The valuation of his stock in trade was £5,389 1s. 10d. In 1752 Benjamin Hall married Hepzibah Jones, of Concord, Mass. While serving on jury in that town he stopped at Major Jones's house. According to the custom of the time, the daughters of the house served the guests. Mr. Hall became very much pleased with Miss Hepzibah, and was more interested in *paying* than in *attending* court. At the end of his stay in Concord he asked the major for his daughter's hand. " I do not know you, young man," was the answer, " but I will inquire about you, and if you hear nothing from me in two weeks, you may come back."

The two weeks passed with no message, and at the end young Hall promptly appeared, and was accepted. Two of his brothers, Richard and Ebenezer, followed his example, and took a bride from the Jones homestead.

All through the period of the Revolution, Benjamin Hall served as a Selectman in Medford — most of the time as chairman. He retired in 1785. At the March town meeting of that year it was "Voted, that the Thanks of the Town be given him for his long service in that station." In those days town officers received no salary.

He was made permanent moderator of town meeting in 1767, succeeding Col. Isaac Royall. The Tory affiliations of the latter were too well known to allow him to preside over assemblies which passed resolutions against the government.

Mr. Hall, who was a monopolist in civil as well as business affairs, was chosen representative to the General Court in 1770, succeeding Hon. Stephen Hall, and served until 1772. In 1774 he was made a member of the Provincial Congress and served until 1778.

When the tea ships came to Boston with their unwelcome freight, all the towns of the province were notified and took action. The town meeting held in Medford, Dec. 7, 1773, appointed Benjamin Hall chairman of a committee to draw up resolutions. They reported December 16, the day of the Boston Tea Party.

All the resolutions passed by the town of Medford previous to the Revolution were more conservative than those of many other towns. The leaders of the town belonged to the class which contained many Tories, and while they themselves were patriots, their intimate acquaintance with many who took the side of the king tempered their utterances.

Colonel Royall was much beloved by many of his townsmen, who knew his best qualities, his ever ready hospitality and generosity. Had he been of the sturdy stock of his friends, his fears would not have overcome his love for his adopted country. If the people of Medford had not grasped the idea of independence in 1773, neither had the leaders of the nation. The love of the colonists for the home land of their fathers died hard.

Sept. 25, 1774, Benjamin Hall was elected to attend the session of the General Court appointed by the governor for October 5. Although Gage countermanded his order, the colonists did not recognize his right to do so, and ninety men met on the appointed day. As no one appeared to administer oaths, they formed themselves into a Provincial Congress and adjourned to Concord. At the adjourned meeting, the Medford member was chosen one of the Committee of Supplies.

His business capacity and his large acquaintance with traders in and out of the province made it possible for him to collect large quantities of goods in his warehouses without arousing suspicion.

The commodities in which he dealt were just what the colonies needed in preparing for the impending struggle. Although he was obliged by ill health to withdraw from the committee in February, 1775, his account books show that he continued to act as its agent.

The warehouses on the Mystic river were a depot of supplies throughout the war. Powder in large quantities was collected there and "boated" to the Castle or to Boston when needed.

In 1779 and 1780 sixteen tons of cannon balls were stored by Mr. Hall for eighteen months.

Large quantities of beef were packed by him in barrels made on the premises, and shipped in his lighters, for the use of the army.

In those days the soldiers considered rum as necessary as meat, and we infer that Medford contributed her share in supplying their demands.

In 1780 General Heath wrote, "Last night an alarming account from West Point of the scantiness of provisions and rum at that post." It seems to be with a feeling of relief that he continues, "A quantity of the latter is on the road to Springfield."

In the third Provincial Congress Mr. Hall was chosen one of a committee to encourage the manufacture of saltpetre, and the next month was one of those

appointed to countersign and number a new emission of continental bills, and also "to superintend the impression of said bills."

The Board of Selectmen of Medford acted as the Committee of Safety during the first years of the war.

When the town was overrun by refugees from Boston and Charlestown Mr. Hall's hands were full trying to supply necessaries, and to send such families as he could to places of safety in the surrounding towns.

Among those whom the war drove out of Charlestown was a boy named Joseph Manning. Mr. Hall became much interested in him and took him into his employ. When Manning reached manhood his benefactor turned over to him and Benjamin Hall, Jr., a part of his varied business, and they formed the firm of Hall and Manning. They acquired property, and now representatives of the Manning family carry on the business, which is the outgrowth of the original firm of Hall and Manning, within a stone's throw of the spot where their ancestor began his business career.

Benjamin Hall's love for humanity was not confined to his countrymen. One night during the siege of Boston an English officer came out of Boston, disguised, to visit a sick friend.

He was recognized and pursued. Having had some acquaintance with Mr. Hall before hostilities began, he went to his house for refuge. His inquiry for the master of the house was answered by the intelligence that he was with the Committee of Safety in session within. The officer's heart sank, but he asked to see Mr. Hall in the entry. He told his story. There was no doubt of its truth. What should the patriot do? Should he open the parlor door and hand the Englishman over as a spy to the committee, or, for humanity's sake, protect an innocent man fleeing for his life? After a moment's thought he said, "Follow me," and leading the trembling officer to the garret, hid him away under the eaves until danger was over.

When English and Hessian officers were on parole in Medford, after Burgoyne's surrender, Mr. Hall received them as guests; but these acts of courtesy never caused any diminution in the confidence of his townsmen.

When the war began the town, which had suffered greatly by the enforcement of the Boston Port Bill, could hardly raise money enough for ordinary expenses. Bounty for the soldiers was not forthcoming except by loans.

Benjamin Hall was not niggardly at this time.

When men were called for to go to the relief of the army in Canada, in July, 1776, he was one of three who loaned the town money to pay bounty. When the amount borrowed did not prove enough, he added eleven pounds more as his share of extra bounty advanced by some seventy citizens. The next year he loaned £200 and the next £100.

The outlook for receiving either principal or interest was not encouraging. In looking over the town accounts one notices the patriotism of the town officers, who were generous with their loans but slow in pressing their claims for payment.

Beside the lighters on the river, Mr. Hall owned sloops which were engaged in coastwise and West Indian trade.

In 1803 he was a claimant against the British government for damages caused by the capture of the sloop "Charles," Samuel Brooks, master, which was condemned in a Vice Admiralty Court in the West Indies in 1793.

Beside being a ship-owner, he was interested in other marine affairs. He assisted in fitting out privateers during the Revolution.

In 1784 Mr. Hall said, "When the war began I would not have exchanged property with any man in the country, but now I am worth nothing."

His landed property remained, and when the war

was over it furnished his capital as he manfully set to work to repair his fortunes.

Mrs. Hall died in 1790. In 1791 Mr. Hall married widow Mary Green, of Boston. The marriage contract made between them and Joseph Barrel, Esq., of Boston, "of the third part," is very quaint.

It provides that "In consideration of five shillings to the said Benjamin paid by the said Joseph the receipt whereof the said Benjamin doth hereby acknowledge, he the said Benjamin doth hereby grant, bargain sell convey and confirm unto the said Joseph the mansion house of the said Benjamin with the land, garden and buildings thereunto belonging all situate and lying in Medford aforesaid on the north side of the road leading from the bridge to Medford meeting-house, and all the household goods, implements and utensils which now are of and belonging to the Mansion House aforesaid, to have and to hold to the said Joseph, his executors and assigns in trust, to permit the said Benjamin during his life to use and enjoy the same and from and after his decease in trust to permit the said Mary during her remaining the widow of said Benjamin to use and enjoy the same." . . . "And he further covenants with the said Mary that in case she survives him, she shall have, occupy and improve to her own use all the liquors wines and provisions of every kind that at the time of his decease shall be within the mansion-house aforesaid, and shall and may use occupy and improve after his decease and during her natural life, one third part of his pew number twenty-six in the Meeting House aforesaid. And the said Mary in consideration of the foregoing settlement[1] covenants and provisions, hereby releases all her rights of dower and thirds in the estate of said Benjamin."

Mr. Hall's mansion was on what is now High street. It was removed some years ago to make way for a new street which runs directly through the space occupied

[1] This included a yearly allowance of money, if she survived her husband.

by the garden, and continues to Middlesex Fells. The house was two stories high, with a gambrel roof, and faced the south, with large square rooms on either side of the front entry. Back of the "east parlor" was Mr. Hall's "counting-room," in which he transacted business after giving up active commercial life.

In the house could be found the heavy mahogany furniture, the brass fire-sets, the warming-pans, the rose blankets, the woolen coverlets, which, with stores of spotless linen, were the housekeeper's pride in those days. The solid silver tankards, the cream pot, the butter boats and porringers, the tiny teaspoons and sugar-tongs, would make a modern collector envious.

The house stood very near the street, but back of it, screened from the public gaze, was a beautiful garden containing nearly two acres of land.

It was laid out in terraces on the southern slope of Pasture hill. The plots were bordered with box, and contained vegetables, fruit, and flowers in profusion. At the highest point was a garden house,[1] from which a beautiful view and pure air were assured even in the warmest weather. This garden was jealously guarded by its owner. A contract made with a gardener after Mr. Hall's death concludes as follows:

"Also that he shall not admit any person into the Garden without the consent of Mrs. Hall. The roses are all for Mrs. Hall."

Mr. Hall's brother Richard, "Hatter Hall" as he was called, lived in the next house west, which is still standing on the westerly corner of Governor's avenue. Mr. Hall's own house was known after the death of Mrs. Hall as the Dr. Swan House.

Benjamin Hall was always interested in any improvement which would benefit his native town, and proportionately jealous of anything which would detract from it.

He was an earnest remonstrant against building

[1] Near the site of the Medford Club House.

Malden and Chelsea bridges. The construction of Charlestown bridge had previously damaged the river transportation which had been Medford's pride.

The town was much excited over the project of a bridge at "Penny Ferry" (Malden), and harsh words were said about the Charlestown people who favored it. Even the Rev. David Osgood [1] was moved to indignation, and voiced the sentiments of his townsmen in a letter to a friend in Charlestown.

He wrote, "Almost ever since I saw you I have been so agitated about that execrable bridge at Penny Ferry, that law and divinity have both been obliged to stand whilst I have rallied all my powers to fight the bridge builders. . . . I do think it unpardonable in . . . the . . . inhabitants of Charlestown who are abettors in this business.

"After the danger and terror they were all in from the apprehension of a bridge at Lechmere Point . . . so immediately to turn upon us and appear so zealous for the *destruction* of *Medford*, is a conduct so base and ungenerous as nothing can palliate.

"I shall be tempted when I preach again to take *total depravity* for my subject, though that be a doctrine of which I had begun to doubt till I had this recent proof of it." Referring to a letter which he had written for circulation in the General Court, the Doctor says: "If the facts which I have produced do not carry conviction . . . I shall think that all the world is mad, and that I and my people, with the few who have hitherto joined us, remain the only sober and rational part of this creation."

It was a sad blow to Dr. Osgood, Mr. Hall, and others that Maj. Samuel Swan, their personal friend and a resident of Medford during the Revolution, should have been one of the chief advocates of this bridge. He always boasted that his chaise was the first to cross the bridge when it was open to travel.

[1] Minister of the church at Medford.

Major Swan subsequently left Charlestown and made Medford his permanent home. He died there in 1825.

Chelsea bridge was built in 1801. The Selectmen of Medford, Benjamin Hall, and John Brooks[1] were a committee who vainly opposed it.

Mr. Hall was zealous in prosecuting the building of Middlesex Canal, but was not in favor of extending it to Boston. He wrote, "In 1792 there was a petition preferred the General Court for liberty to make a Canal from Merrimack River into Medford River the Petitioners were Chiefly Inhabitants of Medford. When the Corporation Act Past there were twelve Person named in Said Act Eight of which was of Medford a Committee was appointed by the Corporation to Purchase Land in Chelmsford, Billerica & Wobourn and Stake Out the Same. One half of said Committee were allso of Medford and spent Many Days About itt att there Own Expense. . . . Itt is Very Evident that itt was not the Design of the Corporation to go Any further than Medford when the Corp. Act Past. as itt then Fixt the tol to Medford Bridge . . . itt is Presumed that the Corporation has not Fullfill'd there Part of the Act Untill they have Lockt the same in Medford River. . . . there may be Sufficiency of water to go into Medford River by Locks and not Enough to Procede to Charlestown for these two years Past there has Not been water sufficient in the Canal After July Untill October and what has been we May Expect will take Place Again Sooner or later. itt is a Very great Misfortune for the Proprietors that they Proceded Any further than Medford before the Land was Purchased they Intended to have made use of."

To connect the canal with "Medford River," as Mr. Hall calls it, he was the prime mover in building a "Branch Canal" in 1807. This was mostly used in carrying ship timber to the various shipyards of Medford. It left the main canal at Mystic avenue. Benja-

[1] Governor of Massachusetts.

min, Ebenezer, and Dudley Hall[1] were the directors. In two years (1807 to 1809) $256.98 were received for tolls. Jonathan Warner and John Jaquith were the keepers of the locks. The first dividend was declared in February, 1809, — four dollars on a share of one hundred dollars.

In 1803 Benjamin Hall, John Brooks, Fitch Hall, Ebenezer Hall, 2d, and Samuel Buell[2] were the petitioners to the Legislature to form the Medford Turnpike Association. This road was built east of Winter and Ploughed hills and presented a shorter route to Boston than the old road over Winter hill. The road was built and proved a great convenience to teamsters. It remained a turnpike until 1867, when it was laid out as a county road. Few old residents of Medford, to this day, call it by its modern name, "Mystic avenue." It is the "Turnpike" to them and their children. When Col. Isaac Royall fled from Medford his estates were left in charge of Dr. Simon Tufts, the worthy physician of the town, who carefully rendered to the government all income arising from them. But in 1778 the whole property was confiscated. Probably through influence of his friends in Medford, who testified that his opposition to the government had never been active, the property was kept together, and at about the beginning of this century it was restored to the Royall family.

In 1804 Robert Fletcher, of Amherst, N.H., Samuel Dexter, of Roxbury, and Fitch Hall, son of Benjamin Hall, negotiated to purchase the Royall estate in Medford and Foxborough.

Before the sale was completed Robert Fletcher withdrew from the syndicate, assigning his share to Samuel Dexter and William H. Sumner.

Fitch Hall sold his share (one-third) to "Benjamin Hall of Medford, Esquire, Ebenezer Hall of the same place,

[1] Son of Benjamin Hall, Jr.
[2] First postmaster of Medford.

Tanner, and Benjamin Hall junior of the same place, Merchant," for $24,000. The estate in Medford then consisted of "about five hundred twenty acres on the west side of Mystic River, about fifty acres north of the Great Brick Yard, and a Pew in the Meeting House in Medford."

Bills of exchange were sent to London Oct. 21, 1805, and the deeds were passed from Henry Hutton and Elizabeth Royall Hutton to the "Proprietors of Royallville." The next year Benjamin Hall, Sr., bought out the other Medford gentlemen and owned one-third of the estate.

The Mansion House, gardens, and outbuildings were sold to William Welch for $13,000.

In 1808 the proprietors divided up the land. Much valuable property in the very heart of the town of Medford became the property of Mr. Hall, also pasture, marsh, and woodland.

One piece of land consisted of a block bounded by Main street, Swan street, and the river, except a lot sold to Nathan Wait by the syndicate, now occupied by his descendants, a lot owned by the heirs of James Tufts, still in possession of the family, and a small lot owned by John Bishop. The Admiral Vernon tavern stood on the southwest corner of this block.

The wood lot "back of the great brick yard,"[1] containing forty acres, was sold for $447 to Rev. David Osgood. This was north of the present Fells parkway. It was bequeathed to the town by Dr. Osgood's daughter. The last years of Mr. Hall's life were saddened by the death of his oldest son, Benjamin. He had always been with his father in business, and in 1801 had become his successor.

He married Lucy Tufts, daughter of Dr. Simon Tufts, and took her, a bride, to the "Old Garrison House."[2] The young couple lived there nine years,

[1] Now one of the most thickly settled parts of the city.

[2] Property of Jonathan Wade about 1650. Still standing. Some authorities think this dates back to 1636.

and then removed (1786) to a new house built next to his father's. This mansion is still well preserved, and is a fine example of the architecture of its time. (Dr. Chandler's home.)

Simon Tufts, a wealthy merchant in the far East, who was a brother of Mrs. Hall, writing to his brother-in-law, gives a hint of the latter's character. In the eyes of a merchant prince the business carried on by young Hall seemed very small.

He writes: "You are doing business I should conceive not very profitably. . . . You are so attached to old houses, old works, and old places, that you would not like to relinquish — neither would it be proper, perhaps, as you have a family."

Loving his own home, he was contented to remain the prop of his father's old age, and the bond between the two was unusually close.

Benjamin, Jr., died in 1807, and his son Dudley crept into his father's place in the grandfather's heart.

With the building of the bridges, and the continuation of Middlesex canal to Boston, the trade of Medford declined. Lightering, which for a century had been carried on with profit, was at an end. As the old business died, a new interest — ship-building[1] — sprang into being, and a new era began.

Benjamin Hall was a stanch Federalist. In fact, the whole town was unanimous in the support of that party.

In the campaigns between Jefferson and Adams, Medford went solidly for the Massachusetts man. Mr. Hall was a delegate to the electoral college which made John Adams president.

The personal popularity of Governor Brooks caused the town to follow his leadership in politics as long as he lived, but after his death, in 1825, the new element carried the popular vote against the old party.

Benjamin Hall did not live to see that day. He died Feb. 2, 1817, aged eighty-six.

[1] Thatcher Magoun laid the first keel in Medford in 1802.

His career as a public servant and private citizen, which extended over more than half a century, left an impress upon the town of his birth which has never been effaced.

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[ ] TOWN OF MEDFORD TO SAM[L] BROOKS TREAS[R]

| | | | Dr £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [ ]31/2 | | | | | |
| [ ] | nr 17 | To Cash paid to ye Revrd. Mr. Turell for Salary | £50 | 00 | 00 |
| [ ] | 28 | To Do: pd. To John Giles for his Pew | 4 | 00 | 00 |
| [ ] | v | To Do pd. to John Bradish for Glazing at the Meeting-houſe — — | 2 | 09 | 03 |
| [ ] | v | To Do. pd. to ye Widow Suſanna Willis in full for a Room for the School in 1730/1 | 0 | 10 | 00 |
| | | To Cash paid to ſundry Perſons (ing Houſe | 78 | 13 | 06 |
| [ ] | 18 | To Do. pd. to Lydia Pierce for Sweeping the Meet- | 3 | 00 | 00 |
| | | To Do. pd. to Saml Brooks Junr. in full for keeping School in Time paſtd — — — — — | 15 | 05 | 00 |
| | | To Caſh pd. to ye widow Suſanna Willis in full for [ ]oom for ye School in Time paſt — — — of | 2 | 02 | 00 |
| | | [ ] Cash pd. to Richd Sprague in full ∧ his Order of Sd. Date | 6 | 07 | 00 |
| | | [ ]o Do. paid to Thomas Tufts Junr. for keeping School | 8 | 00 | 00 |
| | | [ ]o Do pd. to Benjamin Willis on Accomt of the School Houſe — — — — — — — — — — | 10 | 00 | 00 |
| | | To Do paid to John Bradish for Glazing at the Meeting Houſe — — — — — — | 1 | 2 | 11 |

TO SAMUEL BROOKS TREASUR[R]

| | | £ | s | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1731 | | | | |
| May 21 | By Caſh Rece'd of ye Truſtees of ye 60000 Loan | £1 | 16 | [ ] |
| 1732 | | | | |
| may 21 | By Do. Receiv'd of ſaid Truſtees — — | 1 | 16 | [ ] |
| 1730 | Omitted entring before | | | |
| | By Caſh Reced. of Conſtable Stephen Francis | 100 | 0 | [ ] |
| | By Caſh Reced. of Sd. Francis as Conſtable | 3 | 0 | [ ] |

THE TOWN OF MEDFORD, TO STEPHEN HALL TREASURER Dr

| | | | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1733 | | (Meeting-houſe | | | |
| [ ]pril 17 | | To Cash paid to Lydia Peirce for Sweeping ye | £4 | 0 | 0 |
| [ ] 28 | | To Cash pd. to Suſanna Willis, for the uſe of a Room to keep School in, In the year 1732 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| [ ] 26 | | To Cash pd. to Saml Brooks — — — — | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| | | (Gravelly Bridge | | | |
| [ ] 7 | | To Cash pd. to Thomas Oakes, for work done at | 14 | 9 | 0 |
| [ ] 3/4 | | | | | |
| [ ] 14 | | To Cash pd. to Joseph Tufts, for work and Materialls for Gravelly Bridge — — — | 11 | 3 | 6 |
| | | To Cash pd. to Thomas Oakes, for work and Materials for the High Ways — — — | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| [ ]h 4 | | To Cash pd to Solomon Page for keeping School | 12 | 10 | 0 |
| | | (Highwayes | | | |
| [ ] | | Cash pd. to Stephen Patten for work at ye | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| [ ]o | | Cash pd to Lydia Peirce for Sweeping ye Meeting houſe | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| [ ] | | Cash pd to Saml Brooks for keeping School | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| [ ] 5 | | To Cash pd. to John Willis, for work at ye Highways | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| [ ] 26 | | To Cash pd. to Solomon Page for keeping School | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| [ ] 0 | | To Caſh pd. to Jona: Watſon, for work at ye School houſe | 18 | 10 | 0 |
| [ ] 6 | | To Cash paid to Jacob Polly, for work at ye School houſe | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| | | To Cash pd. to Saml Francis for work at ye School houſe | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| | | (Towns Pew | | | |
| [ ] | | Cash pd. to Peter Seccombe for Building ye | 2 | 13 | 10 |
| | | (highways | | | |
| [ ] | | Cash pd. to Francis Whitmore for work at ye | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| | | (Towns Pew | | | |
| [ ] | | Cash pd to Francis Leathe, for building ye | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| [ ] | | Cash pd. to William Hall, for work at ye highway | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| | | (highway | | | |
| | | To Cash pd. to Aaron Blanchard, for work at the | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| | | To Cash pd. to Joseph Tompſon for work at ye highways | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| | | To Cash pd to William Willis, according to a Vote of ye Town at yr Meeting June 19th: 1734 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| | | To Cash pd. to Nathl Hall for work and Materials for Gravelly Bridge — — — — | 3 | 2 | 0 |

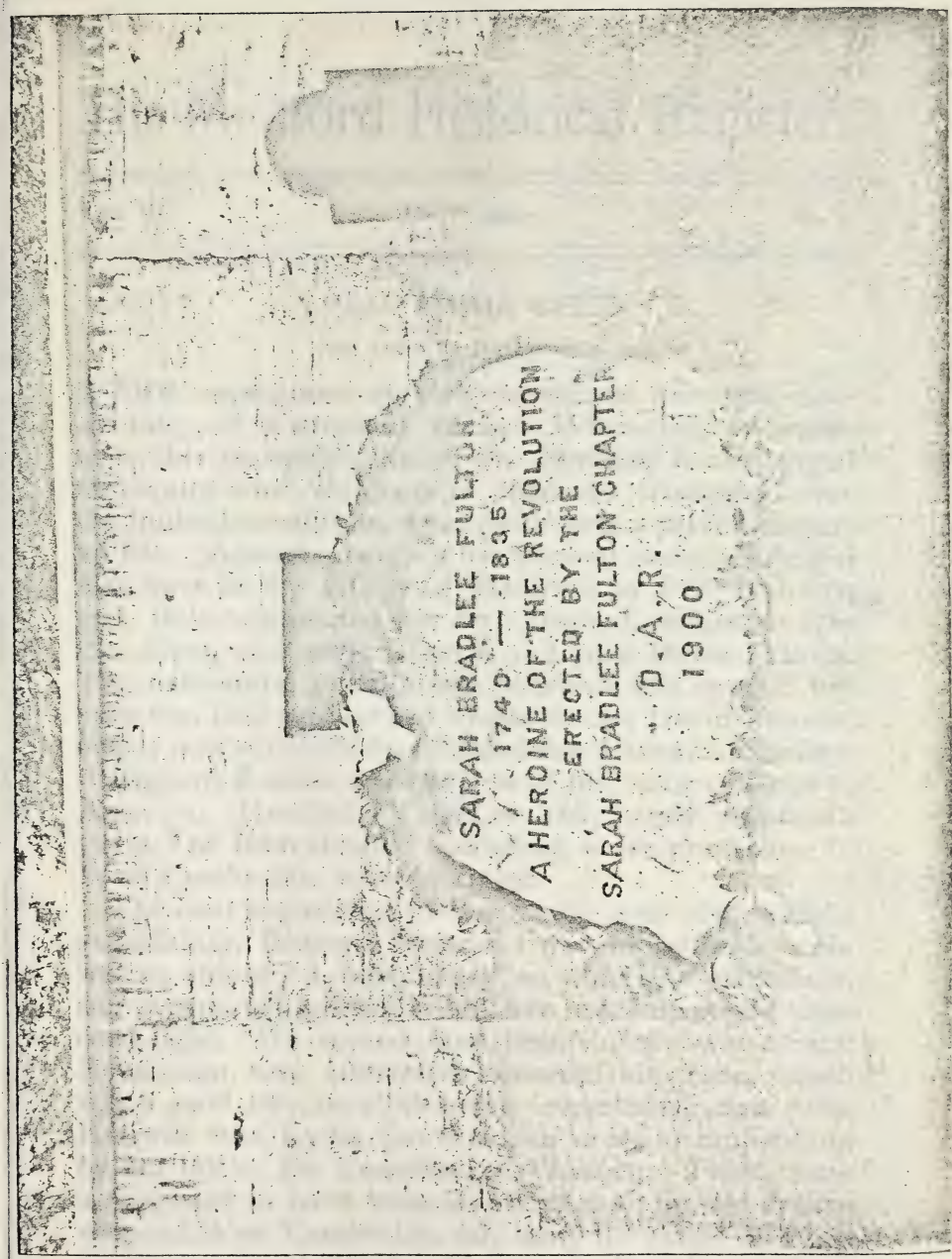
| CONTRA | | CREDIT | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1733 | | | | |
| March | By Cash paid by Nath[l] Francis, being chofe Conſtable | £5 | s o | [ ] |
| | By Cash paid by Nath[l] Hall, being chofe Conſtable | 5 | | |
| | By Cash paid by Andrew Hall, being chofe Conſtable | 5 | | |
| June | By Cash p[d]. by y[e] Truſtees of the 60000£ Loan | 1 | [ | ] |
| | By Cash paid by Conſtable Richard Sprague | 40 | | |
| 1734 | | | | |
| Sep[t]. | By Cash p[d]. by Andrew Hall on Acc[t]. of y[e] Widow Willis | 31 | [ | ] |
| | By Cash paid by Conſtable, Joseph Tompson | 100 | [ | ] |
| | By Cash p[d]. by Deacon willis, in full of what him was due from ʌ as Treaſurer — — — — — | 4 | o [ | ] |
| | By Cash p[d]. by William Willis, in full of what was due from him as Treaſurer — — — | 4 | o [ | ] |
| | By Cash p[d]. by Conſtable Edward Oakes — — | 3[ | | ] |
| | By Caſh p[d]. by Doc[t]. Tufts, w[ch]: he rece'd for Fines | [ | | ] |
| | By Caſh p[d]. by y[e] Truſtees of y[e] 60000£ Loan | [ | | ] |

## NOTES.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Historical Society was held in the Society Rooms, March 19. President Wait, who had previously announced his intention to retire from the office which he had held for four years, gave an interesting address, covering the work and needs of the Society.

The reports of the various committees showed the organization to be in good working condition. The report of the Librarian and Curator, Miss Agnes W. Lincoln, was of especial interest. Votes of thanks to the retiring President, and the retiring Treasurer, Mr. Charles H. Loomis, were passed. The election of officers was held. The list will be found elsewhere.

A BRIEF sketch, with portrait of Mr. J. H. Hooper, the newly elected President of the Society, appeared in the January number of the REGISTER last year.




[This tablet was the door-stone of Mrs. Fulton's house for more than fifty years. Picture reproduced through courtesy of Mr. W. C. Eddy.]

# The Medford Historical Register.

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## LYDIA MARIA CHILD.

By Anna D. Hallowell.

FEW reputations survive the almost universal mortality of a hundred years. Whenever, or wherever, this exception occurs our curiosity is challenged to inquire what elements of character triumphed over the limitations of time, what traits were a part of immortal life. Almost a century has elapsed since a little girl was born in the village of Medford, on Feb. 11, 1802, and duly christened by Dr. Osgood, minister over the *First*, and *only*, Church, — Lydia Maria Francis. The substantial brick house in which she opened her eyes was built and owned by her father, David Francis, and is now occupied by the Medford Historical Society.

Richard Francis was the first of the name to come to America. He died in 1686 or 1687, aged eighty-six years, "or thereabouts," according to his gravestone in West Cambridge, now Arlington.

The next knowledge of the family is of Mrs. Child's grandfather, Richard Francis, a weaver by trade. He was an ardent "Liberty man," an excellent marksman, and is reported to have killed five redcoats at the Concord fight. He served four years in the war of the Revolution, and afterwards resumed his trade, which was a good one, no cloth being imported at that time. His wife was Lydia Converse, an orphan, brought up by her uncle, Dr. Converse, of Woburn. Their home is supposed to have been in Menotomy, the old Indian name of West Cambridge, adjoining the estate of Peter C. Brooks in Medford. Their son, David, was born

there, and remained there for several years after his marriage to Susannah Rand, of Charlestown. Then in 1800 they removed to Medford, to the brick house already mentioned. He was a baker by trade, known far and wide by his "crackers" and gingerbread. The "crackers" were stamped "Medford," and were exported to England in large quantities. He retired from business at the age of fifty, with a fortune of $50,000, equal to a million now.

His boyhood had been passed in the stern realities following the seven years' war of the Revolution, and his wife, Susannah Rand, was one of a family who were driven from their home in Charlestown by the flames of the battle of Bunker Hill, with almost entire loss of property. As a result of this early time of heroism and endurance, their daughter Maria inherited a sturdy constitution with that spirit of independence and enthusiasm for human liberty which distinguished her in after years. Fine animal spirits, delight in living, tireless activity and energy, were a part of her abounding health. She said of herself that she was "born before nerves came into fashion." She was the youngest of five children, bright, impulsive, warm-hearted, and self-willed. It is much to be regretted that so few incidents of this remarkable child can be collected.

The first school she attended was the "dame school," kept by "Marm Betty," an ancient spinster of Medford, the envied possessor of some "flowered bed curtains" of fine needlework, the wonder of all beholders. She was a great tea-drinker, and on one occasion was deeply mortified because Governor Brooks found her drinking from the spout of her teapot. Tradition also asserts that she sometimes invited favorite scholars to take a cup of tea with her in her little back room, after the labors of studying the "three R.'s" in the front room. After this school it is supposed that Lydia attended the "Academy," kept by Dr. Hosmer.

When she was twelve years old her mother died, a

calamity which was followed in about a year by the marriage of her elder sister Mary, on whom had fallen the duties of mother and housekeeper, and to whom she was warmly attached. Mary was eight years older than Maria, a well-poised character, and of rare judgment. The child was inconsolable, refused to be present at the wedding ceremony, and, taking her kitten for a sympathetic companion, disappeared up the side lane until all was over.

This dear sister's home was in the beautiful valley of the Kennebec, in the "District of Maine," a cruel distance in the slow stage-coach days of 1814, and the household left behind in Medford felt the separation keenly. Maria was left to the companionship of her always busy father, who wrote to a friend that he was "alarmed at her increasing fondness for books." This taste was fostered by her elder brother Converse, then a student at Harvard. Through him she had access to books beyond her entire comprehension, but all the more attractive to her imagination. It is easy to understand that David Francis should find it wise, after two or three years of school in Medford, to send this precocious daughter to Maine, to be under the care of her judicious sister, whose husband, the Hon. Warren Preston, was a lawyer of standing in Norridgewock, the shire town of Somerset county. The "Kennebec region," as it was called, was largely settled by members of cultivated Massachusetts families, graduates of Harvard and other universities, and professional men seeking new fields of occupation and interest. The court convened in Norridgewock. This brought judges and lawyers with their families to the town, from various parts of the State, and formed a centre of intelligence and refinement, in which Judge Preston's home was prominent. These new associations, combined with the freshness and vigor of the climate, the majestic forests and rivers, far beyond anything the young girl had ever seen before, could not fail to stimulate a temperament of such enthusiasm as hers.

Soon after going to Norridgewock, when she was fifteen years old, she wrote to her brother Converse:

"I have been busily engaged in reading 'Paradise Lost.' Homer hurried me along with rapid impetuosity; every passion that he portrayed, I felt. I loved, hated, and resented, just as he inspired me. But when I read Milton I felt elevated above this diurnal sphere. I could but admire such astonishing grandeur of description, such heavenly sublimity of style."

One cannot help wondering how many girls of fifteen at the present time read Homer and Milton with such understanding, or express their appreciation so eloquently. In a letter three months later she wrote: "Much as I admire Milton, I must confess that Homer is a greater favorite with me."

Two years after, when she was seventeen, she gave the following account of her reading to her brother:

"I usually spend an hour after I retire for the night in reading Gibbon's 'Roman Empire.' I have likewise been reading Shakespeare, and I have been looking over the 'Spectator.' I do not think Addison so good a writer as Johnson, though a more polished one. Indeed, Johnson is my favorite among all his contemporaries."

While this remarkable selection of books for daily reading gives us insight into Maria's intellectual growth and training, we have evidence also of the way in which her sister, Mrs. Preston, attended to the development of her domestic accomplishments, in a piece of her handiwork lately presented to the Medford Historical Society, — an infant's gown, of quaintest pattern, embroidered in an elaborate pattern, with seams, gathers, and hems exquisitely sewed, all the work of her own hands, while she was in her teens. She was also taught to take part in the daily duties of her sister's household, as became a young lady of that primitive time.

Meantime, during these few years that she spent in Maine, her father had removed from Medford to Dorchester, and her brother Converse had been settled over

the First Church in Watertown. She joined him in his new home, and there found the stimulating society and associations which presently bore fruit in active intellectual work. In 1824, when she was only twenty-three, her first novel, "Hobomok," was published, and her reputation as a writer was established. Its success was so great that she soon published another called "The Rebels; a Tale of the Revolution," which, like its predecessor, ran through several editions and brought showers of praise on its youthful writer. In a confidential letter to her sister, she said: "Praises and invitations have poured in upon me, beyond my utmost hopes. . . . 'I should think more highly of the talent of the woman who could write "Hobomok,"' Mr. H. says, 'than of any other American woman who has ever written, though to be sure it has its faults.' — 'Say nothing of its faults,' urges the editor of the 'North American;' 'they are the faults of genius, and the beauties weigh them down.' The Misses Osgood hold up their hands, and exclaim, 'prodigious, prodigious!' I mention these things to *you* because *you* want to hear all the talk that is passing."

General Warren was the hero of "The Rebels." It was received with the same favor that "Hobomok" had called forth, but some of the Calvinists took umbrage at the allusions to Dr. Byles. Of this she wrote to her sister:

"The Calvinists, you know, have a fist always doubled up for a combat. They expect to find the Thirty-Nine Articles supported as manfully in a modern novel as in Dr. Griffin's sermon. I do not think it worth while to battle with them or their doctrines. As mankind advance in the steady march of free and rational principles their absurd tenets will die away, together with image worship, pilgrimages to Mecca, and holy alliances. Indeed, their present extraordinary zeal is but the convulsive spasm of approaching dissolution."

In 1825 she again wrote to her sister: "'Evenings in New England' has been out several weeks, and meets with much more unqualified approbation than 'Hobomok.'" This book was a charming memorial of Lafayette's visit to this country. She had witnessed his triumphal entrance into Boston, and the overwhelming enthusiasm on Beacon street when the attempt was made to take out the horses and draw his barouche by hand. This was more than the noble patriot could bear. He rose from his seat, with gestures of deprecation, while tears rolled down his cheeks. Afterwards, at the reception given him by the governor, Maria received from him a kiss on her hand, which she declared should "never be washed off." At this time "the brilliant Miss Francis" was one of the lions of Boston. She was invited everywhere. Mr. Ticknor, an aristocrat of the first water (spoken of by some as the "Crœsus of Boston,"), would write first to her before inviting other guests, declaring that he desired no one if she could not make one of the company. We can readily believe that the presence of a young lady of such wit and vivacity, fearless, and enjoying to the full her own success, should be coveted on all social occasions. She was attractive in appearance also, but even then, in the height of youthful charms, could not be called beautiful. It was her friend and schoolmate, the preëminent Emily Marshall, who alone deserved and graced the title of "The Beautiful."

On Aug. 28, 1826, she wrote "You have no idea how busy I am. Besides my other work I have engaged to edit a book for children, ninety pages once in two months, and all original matter. Two publishers made the request to me, and I refused, but some Boston ladies finally persuaded me into it." The "Juvenile Miscellany" proved to be one of the best periodicals of its kind. Only a few years ago one of the most scholarly men of our time declared in glowing terms his obligations to its healthful influence, and another, a prominent

writer, said he owed his literary style to a familiarity with its admirable English. Some parts of it were republished in 1844 and 1845, with additions, in two small books, called the "Flowers for Children." They are the best books for little children that I have ever known. The stories are short, direct, wholesome, and admirably told. Unfortunately they are now out of print. The "Juvenile Miscellany" began with a subscription list of eight hundred and fifty, a large number in these days, and, we are told with pride, "continued to increase."

It was in this year, 1826, that Alexander painted Maria's portrait, which she sent to her sister, Mrs. Preston, writing, "I hope you will like it. There is a glow and enthusiasm about it which belongs to the author of 'Hobomok,' rather than to L. M. Francis."[1]

Another letter, about this time, also to her sister, with whom she maintained an intimate and confidential correspondence, spoke thus of her literary reputation and social success: "The 'Miscellany' is very kindly received. It seems as if the public was resolved to give me a flourish of trumpets, let me write what I will. If I were not vain, I should be a prodigy. Indeed, I have been too much caressed of late by a flattering world. Valuable gifts, jewels, beautiful dresses pour in upon me, invitations beyond acceptance, admiring letters from all parts of the country. The world seldom smiled so graciously on one so little worthy of its notice."

It certainly is safe to say that rarely has a young author, altogether unheralded, without social distinction, personal beauty, or wealth, been so overwhelmed with admiration and devotion, and it is remarkable that her head was not completely turned, and that she was only "a little vain," and that when the summons came to relinquish these plaudits of a smiling world for the sake

[1] This portrait, a life-size oil painting, is now in the possession of the Medford Historical Society, the gift of Mrs. Preston's family.

of principle, she found herself not unfitted for the heroic sacrifice. But the time had not yet come, nor even shown itself as a cloud on the shining horizon. She was still the petted darling of the intellectual and fashionable society of Cambridge and Boston. In order to perfect herself in French, she passed the winter of 1826 in the family of Madam Canda, the famous French teacher, saying, "I decided to board in the family in order to hold my English tongue." Here she made some delightful friendships, among them that of Emily Marshall, the celebrated historic beauty of Boston. To her latest day, Mrs. Child never mentioned her without emotion.

During all this season of adulation and popularity, a quiet influence had been at work, of which the success was still unsuspected. It is revealed in the following extracts from her journal:

"Dec. 2, 1824. Mr. Child dined with us at Watertown. He possesses the rich fund of an intelligent traveller without the slightest tinge of a traveller's vanity."

And a month later:

"Jan. 26, 1825. Saw Mr. Child at Mr. Curtis's. He is the most gallant man that has lived since the 16th century, and needs nothing but a helmet, shield, and chain armor to make him a complete knight of chivalry."

And again:

"May 3, 1825. One among the many delightful evenings spent with Mr. Child. I do not know which to admire most, the vigor of his understanding or the ready sparkle of his wit."

In her letters are many expressions of a strong determination never to marry — "Nature never intended me for anything but single life, and I am not going to quarrel with her plans." It goes without saying that opportunities calculated to shake this conviction were not wanting; one, in particular, seemed ideal, and might

have spared her impulsive genius many of the "whips and scorns of Time." But who can tell?

On Oct. 28, 1827, she wrote to her sister: "I blush that I should have been absolutely *engaged* more than a month, without having found a moment to tell you of the important news. Mr. Child's extreme devotion and my own excess of happiness must form my excuse for this negligence. Indeed, my dear sister, I am happy, happy, happy, beyond my own imagination." This event did not meet with the cordial approbation of her friends and family. Mr. David Lee Child was a most accomplished scholar and refined gentleman, of unquestioned integrity and moral worth, had travelled extensively in Europe, was familiar with ancient and modern languages, was courtly in his manners; but with all these desirable qualities was one most *un*desirable — a genius for experiments, without counting the cost. He was a lawyer in Boston, and a member of the Legislature, but gave up his profession to edit the "Massachusetts Journal," soon after their marriage, which took place in Watertown, at eight o'clock Sunday evening, Oct. 19, 1828.

Maria's letter to her sister, concerning the preparations for this event, is characteristic of herself and of the simple living of that day. She had a comfortable income from her books (we wish we could know just how much the word "*comfortable*" meant, but no clue to the amount is given), and devoted a share of it to the renting and furnishing of a small house in Harvard street, in Boston. She spoke of her new home as "a proper little martin box, furnished with very plain gentility," and thus went on to describe her wedding-presents: "A pretty butter knife and cream ladle, — a study lamp, — from Mrs. Thaxter a jar of pickles [Mrs. Thaxter was the mother of Levi Thaxter, the Browning scholar.] — Mrs. White sent me a keg of tongues [Mrs. White was the mother of Maria White, James Russell Lowell's first wife.] — Mrs. Tyler Bigelow, a pair of

plated candlesticks, — Emily Marshall, a pair of stellar lamps, and Mary M., polished steel snuffers on a plated tray. My mantua-maker has been here a week. I have a claret-colored silk pelisse, lined with straw-colored silk, made in the extent of the mode, enough to make anybody stare; one black figured levantine silk, and one swiss muslin. My wedding gown is India muslin, a good deal trimmed with white satin. Clarissa Bigelow is to be bridesmaid, and I have bought 35 lbs. of cake of Nichols."

The "proper little martin box" was situated on Harvard street, but they soon removed to Cottage place, a small street leading out of Washington street, on the neck, beyond Dover. It may be that it is one of several quaint wooden houses still standing, sufficiently attractive even now in their tenement-house decadence, and suggestive of the time when they commanded a view of Dorchester and Brookline over the water. To the years spent in this house, Mrs. Child afterwards referred as the happiest in her life.

Not long after their marriage a Spanish pirate ship was captured, and brought to Boston. The men were charged with most cruel crimes and were threatened with summary punishment. David Lee Child offered his services in their behalf and urged a fair trial. Mrs. Child believed in their innocence and warmly espoused their cause, to the length of travelling all the way to Washington by stage-coach in the depth of winter, to intercede for them with President Jackson. In this interview she employed all her eloquence, and at last cast herself on her knees before him, begging for their lives, without avail; she could not move him. His only reply was, "By the Eternal, let them hang!" But, according to Mr. Wendell Phillips, the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Child secured the miserable men a trial according to law.

During all this time Mrs. Child's pen was never idle. In the interval between her marriage in 1828, and that

turning-point in her career, the writing of her famous pamphlet on slavery, in 1833, entitled "An Appeal in Behalf of that Class of Americans called Africans," she published nine books:

"The First Settlers of New England."
"The Frugal Housewife."
"The Mother's Book."
"The Girl's Own Book."
"The Coronal," and
"The Ladies' Family Library," in 4 vols., a series of admirable short biographies.

The "Mother's Book" ran through eight American editions, twelve English, and one German. The "Frugal Housewife," which achieved twenty-five editions, embodied the practical housekeeping of the first quarter of the century, and largely regulated that of the second quarter. It is most entertaining as well as useful reading. Mrs. Child was then one of the most popular writers in the United States. Publishers eagerly accepted her manuscripts, and paid her well. The highest literary authority in the country, the "North American Review," declared that no woman could outrank her. The Boston Athenæum went so far, to honor her, as to present her with the freedom of the library. Every door, literary and social, was open to her. But the hour had come when principle was to contend with popularity and ambition.

The Anti-Slavery agitation was coming to the front. Mr. Child had been interested in the question for several years, and had become a member of the New England Society. In 1832 he had addressed a series of able letters on slavery and the slave trade to Edward S. Abdy, a prominent English philanthropist, his outspoken hostility to the "peculiar institution" seriously affecting his profession. In 1833 the American Anti-Slavery Society was formed by a convention in Philadelphia, and soon after, Mrs. Child published the famous book

already alluded to, "The Appeal in Behalf of that Class of Americans called Africans." In the preface to it she says: "I am fully aware of the unpopularity of the task I have undertaken, but though I *expect* ridicule and censure, I cannot *fear* them. A few years hence the opinion of the world will be a matter in which I have not even the most transient interest; but this book will be abroad on its mission of humanity long after the hand that wrote it is mingling with the dust. Should it be the means of advancing even one single hour the inevitable progress of truth and justice, I would not exchange the consciousness for all Rothschild's wealth or Sir Walter's fame."

John G. Whittier, in his preface to Mrs. Child's "Letters," published in 1883, wrote, concerning this appeal: "It is quite impossible for any one of the present generation to imagine the popular surprise and indignation which this book called forth, or how entirely its author cut herself off from the favor and sympathy of a large number of those who had delighted to do her honor. Social and literary circles closed their doors to her.[1] The sale of her books, the subscriptions to her magazine fell off to a ruinous extent. Thenceforth her life was a battle, a constant rowing against the stream of popular prejudice and hatred. And through it all she bore herself with patience, fortitude, and unshaken reliance upon the justice and ultimate triumph of the cause she had espoused. Whenever there was a brave word to be spoken, her voice was heard, and never in vain."

In a letter written to the Rev. Samuel J. May in 1867, Mrs. Child refers as follows to the change in her circumstances made by the publication of the "Appeal": "With regard to society I was a gainer decidedly, for though the respectables, who had condescended to patronize me, forthwith sent me to Coventry, Anti-Slavery introduced me to the noblest and best in the land, intellectually and morally, and knit us together in that

[1] Mr. Ticknor passed her by on the street without seeing her.

firm friendship which grows out of sympathy in a good but unpopular cause. I was quite surprised one day, some time before this, by a note from the trustees of the Boston Athenæum, offering me the use of the library, the same as if I owned a share. About the time of this unexpected attention from the trustees, Mr. Garrison came to Boston and I had a talk with him. Consequently, the first use I made of my Athenæum privilege was to take out some books on that subject (slavery), with a view to writing my 'Appeal.' A few weeks after the 'Appeal' was published, I received another note from the trustees, informing me that at a recent meeting they had passed a vote to take away my privilege, lest it should prove an inconvenient precedent!"

Of the influence that Mr. Garrison had exerted upon her, Mrs. Child wrote in 1879, a year before her death, "It is wonderful how one mortal may affect the destiny of a multitude. I remember distinctly the first time I saw Garrison. I little thought then that the whole pattern of my life web would be changed by that introduction. I was then all absorbed in poetry and painting, soaring aloft on Psyche wings into the ethereal regions of mysticism. He got hold of the strings of my conscience and pulled me into reforms. It is of no use to imagine what might have been if I had never met him. Old dreams vanished, old associates departed, and all things became new. But the new surroundings were all alive, and they brought a moral discipline worth ten times the sacrifice they cost."

Mrs. Child never posed as a martyr; indeed, she never posed at all, but was straightforward to a fault, as her directness sometimes got her into trouble with those that did not understand it. She said of herself: "I don't like conventional fetters. There have been many attempts to saddle and bridle me and teach me to keep step in respectable processions, but they have never got the lasso over my neck yet."

The following verses are supposed to have been

written during the season of reproach and privation which resulted from her brave "Appeal":

"Few in the days of early youth
Trusted like me in love and truth.
I've learned sad lessons with the years,
But slowly, and with many tears.
For God made me to *kindly* view
The world that I am passing through.

Though kindness and forbearance, long
Must meet ingratitude and wrong,
I still would bless my fellow-men
And trust them, though deceived again.
God keep me still to kindly view
The world that I am passing through.

From all that fate has brought to me
I strive to learn humility;
And trust in Him who rules above
Whose universal law is love.
Thus only can I kindly view
The world that I am passing through.

When I approach the setting sun
And feel my journey well-nigh done,
May earth be veiled in genial light
And her last smile to me seem bright.
Help me till then to kindly view
The world that I am passing through.

In 1836 Mrs. Child published "Philothea," a Greek romance in the time of Phidias, Plato, Anaxagoras, Pericles, Alcibiades, and Aspasia. It was pronounced the crowning achievement of her intellectual efforts, and was received with something of the enthusiasm that had greeted her early novels. Everybody read it, every library contained a copy. It is one of the pathetic reverses of the whirligig of time, that these same copies are now dusty and unread, completely out of favor with modern sensational taste. The classical allusions in which it abounds are carefully explained in an admirable appendix, which closes with a passage as

frank as the heart of the writer: "If there be errors in the application of Greek names and phrases my excuse must be an entire want of knowledge in the classic languages. But, like the ignoramus in the old drama, I can boast 'though I *speak* no Greek, I love the *sound* on't.'"

Between "Philothea" in 1836 and the "Letters from New York" in 1843 and 1845, there were several publications of less importance, besides numberless contributions to the Anti-Slavery cause in newspapers and magazines. Meantime, Mr. Child visited England and France, whence he returned full of the idea of manufacturing beet sugar, and with this end in view they removed to Northampton, where they bought a suitable farm, and established what would now be called a plant. It cost a great deal of money, principally of Mrs. Child's earnings, and proved an entire failure. Mrs. Child's letters from Northampton do not sound very happy. One begins: "If I were to choose my home, I certainly would not place it in the valley of the Connecticut. It is true the river is broad and clear, the hills majestic, and the whole aspect of outward nature most lovely. But oh! the narrowness, the bigotry of man!"

We can glean from other extracts some idea of the hardships of her daily life, a life of actual hard work, made endurable by the perennial vigor of her cheerful disposition, the sustaining power of her love for the beautiful in nature and in art, and a vivid religious sentiment.

This is noticeable in the following letter to her brother Converse: "I am ashamed to say how deeply I am charmed with sculpture. I have a little plaster cast of a caryatid which acts upon my spirit like a magician's spell. Many a time this hard summer I have laid down dishcloth or broom, and gone to refresh my spirit by gazing on it a few minutes. It speaks to me. In summer I place flowers before it, and now I have laid a garland of acorns and amaranth at its feet."

In another: "A month elapsed after I came here before I stepped into the woods which were all around me blooming with wild flowers. I did not go to Mr. Dwight's ordination, nor yet have I been to meeting. He has been to see me, however, and though I left my work in the midst and sat down with a dirty gown and hands somewhat grimed, we were high in the blue in fifteen minutes. I promised to take a flight with him from the wash-tub or dish-kettle any time he would come along with his balloon."

Again: "You are right, my dear brother, to attribute such freshness as I have to a vivid religious sentiment. If I can in quietness and peace forego my own pleasure and relinquish my own tastes, I seem to those who live in shadows to be cooking food or mixing medicines, but I am in fact making divine works of art which will reveal to me their fair proportions in the far eternity. Another means of keeping my soul fresh is my intense love of Nature. Another help, perhaps stronger than either of the two, is domestic love.

"The only house on our farm is a sort of shanty with two rooms and a garret. We expect to whitewash it, build a new woodshed, and live there the next year. I shall keep no help, and there will be room enough for David and me. I intend to half bury it in flowers. I have obtained a hyacinth bean, which I value because it grew around my door in Cottage place, where I spent the happiest years of my life."

Here let me quote a little from that admirable biography, Mrs. Leslie's "Recollections of my Mother":

"Mrs. Lyman had the greatest affection for David Lee Child and his gifted wife. But she was often much tried with the amount of time, hard labor, and money which Mr. Child expended on schemes that never succeeded, and with his going from one failure to another with unbounded enthusiasm. At one time it was the '*morus multicaulis*,' at another it was beet sugar. For years he toiled upon a farm that was a worthless

swamp when he bought it, and made a hundred blades of grass grow where one grew before, but at an awful expense of bone and sinew, of life and health and money, and much anxiety to his dear, devoted wife, whom he loved sincerely and fully believed he would make rich."

Mrs. Lyman once asked Mrs. Child what her husband was busy at then; to which Mrs. Child replied that he was "carting stones for the new railroad." "Indeed," said Mrs. Lyman; "well, how much do you suppose your husband loses on every load of stone that he carts?" Mrs. Child answered cheerily, "As nearly as I can compute it, Mrs. Lyman, he must lose about ten cents on every load."

"Oh — well now," said Mrs. Lyman, "if he has got hold of anything by which he loses only ten cents a load, do encourage him in it!"

Mrs. Child's ready sense of humor probably prevented a very natural resentment at her friend's brusque wit, for her only reply was an amused smile.

The intention to live in the "shanty" on the farm was never fulfilled. Mrs. Child was called to New York to edit the "Anti-Slavery Standard." In her first impression of this new work she wrote: "My task here is irksome to me. It was not zeal for the cause, but love for my husband, which brought me hither. But since it was necessary for me to leave home to be earning somewhat, I am thankful that my work is for the Anti-Slavery cause. I have agreed to stay one year. I hope I shall then be able to return to my husband and rural home, which is humble enough, yet very satisfactory to me. I trust this weary separation from my husband is not to last more than a year. If I must be away from him, I could not be more happily situated than in Friend Hopper's family."

"Friend Hopper," as she called him, according to the custom among friends in addressing a person older than yourself, was Isaac T. Hopper, whose remarkable

life she afterwards wrote. Whittier calls this one of the most readable biographies in English literature. During her stay in New York, which continued, contrary to all expectation, until 1849 or 1850, she wrote a series of letters to the "Boston Courier," edited by Joseph Buckingham, which were published later in book form, as "Letters from New York, First and Second Part." She began also her great work, "The Progress of Religious Ideas through Successive Ages." This was published in 1855. About this time James Russell Lowell admirably portrayed Mrs. Child in his "Fable for Critics." He evidently admired her greatly.

In 1849 she left New York and joined her husband in West Newton, but soon after they went to Wayland to live with Mrs. Child's father, the aged David Francis. In this house they spent the rest of their lives, with an occasional winter in Medford with their friends, the Misses Osgood, or in Boston, either boarding or visiting other friends. Those of us who were privileged to see the home in Wayland will never forget it. The house was an unpretentious country house of one story and attic, set a little back from the public road, and separated from it by a charming old-fashioned flower garden, the delight of Mrs. Child. The interior was simple and attractive, with evidences of studied economy. To the mere looker-on the inmates seemed shut in from the world, but in reality they kept in touch with its best interests. Never was a more striking instance of "plain living and high thinking." One of Mrs. Child's fancies was to hang prisms in the windows to trap the rainbow colors. She desired to have cheerful colors, cheerful pictures, and cheerful faces about her. Cheerfulness was part of her every-day religion. She turned her face resolutely to the better side of things. In a letter to a friend, she said of herself: "The world is so full of sadness that I more and more make it a point to avoid all sadness that does not come within the sphere of my duty. I read only 'chipper' books. I hang

prisms in the windows to fill the rooms with rainbows. I gaze at all the bright pictures in the shop windows. I cultivate the gayest flowers. I seek cheerfulness in every possible way."

Her aged and invalid father lingered with them until December, 1856, when death released him. She felt the loss keenly. "The occupation of my life seems gone. I cannot settle down to work. Always when I came back from Boston there was a bright firelight in his room for me, and his hand was eagerly stretched out, and the old face lighted up as he said, 'You're welcome back, Maria.'" After his death it was only David and Maria until 1874, and then, until 1880, only Maria.

A friend who had ample opportunity to know the home life of Mr. and Mrs. Child said of it: "Their domestic life seemed to me perfect." Their sympathies, their admiration of all things good, and their hearty hatred of all things mean and evil, were in entire unison. Mr. Child shared his wife's enthusiasm, and was very proud of her. In all her undertakings he gave her that sympathetic support which makes work so easy. He lived among his books, but was never too busy to dig up the garden, chop wood, or do any domestic service to save her trouble. They kept no help. In Mrs. Child's letters there are many allusions to her husband's tender thoughtfulness. One of these is as follows: "How melancholy I felt when you went off in the stage in the morning darkness. It almost made me cry to see how carefully you had arranged everything for my comfort before you left; so much kindling wood cut up, and the bricks piled to protect my flowers." In such ways, their affection, never paraded, was always manifest. After Mr. Child's death, Mrs. Child said, in speaking of a future life: "I believe it would be of small value to me, if I were not united to him." In this connection, let me quote a few lines from some reminiscences of her husband, found among her papers, and published in the preface to her "Letters."

"In 1852 we made a humble home in Wayland, Mass., where we spent twenty-two pleasant years entirely alone, without any domestic, mutually serving each other, and dependent upon each other for intellectual companionship. I always depended on his richly-stored mind, which was able and ready to furnish needed information on any subject. . . . But what I remember with the most tender gratitude is his uniform patience and forbearance with my faults. He never would see anything but the right side of my character. He always insisted upon thinking that whatever I said was the wisest and the wittiest, and that whatever I did was the best. The simplest little *jeu d'esprit* of mine seemed to him wonderfully witty. Once, when he said, 'I wish for your sake, dear, I were as rich as Crœsus,' I answered, 'You *are* Crœsus, for you are king of Lydia.' How often he used to quote that! His mind was unclouded to the last. He had a passion for philology, and only eight hours before he passed away, he was searching out the derivation of a word." He died in 1874, a little over eighty years old.

It is pleasant and profitable to dwell on the domestic side of an intellectual woman, known to the world chiefly by her writings and her interest in public reforms. She was no Borriaboolagah sentimentalist, busied with the needs of remote barbarians; her field was close at home, among the sick and needy of her own neighborhood. A firm believer in the reform then called "Woman's Rights," whose supporters were supposed to be disdainful of home life and its duties, she was yet an admirable housekeeper of the most practical kind, and author of the standard cook-book of the day. She carried her belief in the cause of temperance to the extent of reclaiming a wretched neighbor from the degradation of drunkenness, and steadily supported his efforts to withstand the horrible temptation. She delighted in music, particularly the violin, and sought every opportunity to hear it, when she was staying in

Medford or Boston. Her love for the beautiful was a marked characteristic, and, as she often said, a great help to her in some of the trying experiences of her varied life. With all these traits, she was naturally very impetuous, and impatient of hindrances. She liked to have her own way, and was full of prejudices, which were most difficult to uproot, when once they had started. But these were only the balancing faults of a strong nature, the shadows that brought out the lights. Her friends can all echo the words of Wendell Phillips: "A dear lovable woman, welcome at sick bedsides, as much in place there as in facing an angry nation, contented in the home she had made, a loyal friend, a wise counsellor, one who made your troubles hers. She was the kind of woman one would choose to represent woman's entrance into broader life." We must not pass over her being a hearty *hater*, as well as a most loyal friend; and one more prominent trait must be mentioned: she was a royal giver of her time, her sympathy, and her money. She practised the most rigid economy, to the smallest particular, in dress and manner of life; used an envelope twice, inside as well as out, and never wrote on a whole sheet of paper when half a sheet would answer; but she saved with one hand to give away with the other. Her one luxury was to *give*, and in this she exercised no self denial. She once offered Mr. Phillips $100 for the freedmen, in a particular emergency, and he deprecated her giving so large an amount. "Well," said she, "I'll think it over." The next day she wrote, "Wendell, make it $200!" Another time she wrote him, "I have $400 to my credit at my publishers, for my book 'Looking toward Sunset;' please get it and give it to the freedmen."

My personal acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Child began a little before this, in the troubled times just before the Civil war, and just after what was called the "John Brown raid." Mr. and Mrs. Child spent that winter of 1859 and 1860 in Medford, with their friend

Miss Lucy Osgood, and we met them frequently. It was an anxious winter. Abolitionists were hated, ostracized, and mobbed. Wendell Phillips went to and from his lectures surrounded by a body-guard of young men, self appointed to protect him from the violence which was constantly threatened and sometimes attempted. Even sedate, conservative Medford shared in the disturbance. On one memorable occasion one of the few abolitionists in the town, warmly seconded by Mrs. Child, arranged to hold an Anti-Slavery meeting in the Town Hall, with Miss Sally Holly as speaker. This was said to be the first meeting of the kind ever called in Medford. It aroused such excitement, such threats of violence (even to the tarring and feathering of the gentleman in charge [1]), that the Selectmen feared a mob, and gave orders that the Hall should not be opened. It apparently did not occur to them that free speech could be *defended* more wisely than suppressed. The appointed evening came, bitter cold, with heavy snow on the ground. When we drove down to the meeting, the square was a surging mass of men, the steps to the Hall were packed solid, and the doors were closed! The crowd talked angrily, but no violence was done. Several of Mr. Phillips' "body-guard," having heard of the excitement, were on hand in case of need, and stood about the sleigh while Miss Holly rose and made a brief address. Then she and her friends withdrew to Mrs. Child's parlor, and held a lively indignation meeting there.

If time and space permitted, I should like to quote many passages from Mrs. Child's later letters, telling of her varied activities and interests, but I must sum up briefly the amount of intellectual work she accomplished during her life in Wayland, passing by the amazing record of sewing done for Kansas, and the freedmen, with only one instance: the making at one

[1] Richard P. Hallowell, who received anonymous letters to that effect.

time of sixty yards of cloth into garments, in eight days, with the help of a neighbor and her children.

How she found time, between 1850 and 1880, to do her own housework, to visit, to read, to sew, to garden, and to write thirteen books, is beyond an ordinary comprehension. Thirteen books, including,

"The Progress of Religious Ideas," in 3 vols.; the famous "Correspondence with Governor Wise of Virginia," at the time of John Brown's execution at Harper's Ferry; "The Freedman's Book;" "A Romance of the Republic;" "Looking toward Sunset;" and, only two years before her death, "Aspirations of the World."

Her death occurred quite unexpectedly on the morning of the twentieth of October, 1880. She had been as well as usual, and had been making plans for the winter, when suddenly she complained of a severe pain, and before help could be summoned, passed gently away, in the seventy-ninth year of her age. A few friends from Medford drove up to her funeral on the beautiful October day, and listened to the inspired words of Wendell Phillips, as he stood by his old friend, with his hand on her coffin, and told us, as only he could, of the struggles and the triumphs which had built the noble character he described. Then, led by the white-haired undertaker, the small procession slowly walked to the burying-ground near by, and as we stood there, in reverent silence, a magnificent rainbow spanned the eastern sky.

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INSCRIPTION ON THE STONE AT MRS. CHILD'S GRAVE IN WAYLAND.

LYDIA MARIA CHILD

BORN FEB. 11, 1802
DIED OCT. 20, 1880

You call us dead
We are not dead
We are truly living now.

# SLAVERY IN MEDFORD.

By Walter H. Cushing.

SLAVERY existed in Massachusetts almost from the first settlement of the colony, and was somewhat increased as a result of the Pequot war in 1637. The slaves in this instance were, of course, Indians. The chief source of African slaves, so far as their importation is concerned, was through trade with Barbadoes, a British island in the West Indies. Slaves purchased in Africa were sold chiefly in the West Indies and the Southern colonies ; the balance came North.

The mainspring of the traffic was rum ; and Brooks in his "History of Medford" gives an extract from a captain's account-book showing balance between rum and slaves.

Very few whole cargoes, however, came to Massachusetts ; and only a small number of ships from Boston engaged in the African trade. In 1703 a duty of £4 was imposed on every negro imported. Slaves were most numerous in Massachusetts about 1745 ; in 1763 the ratio of whites to blacks, the latter including many free negroes, was 45 : 1.

When the Massachusetts Body of Liberties was drawn up in 1641, the question of slavery was treated as follows :

"Art. 91. There shall never be any bond-slavery, villanage, or captivity amongst us, unless it be lawful captives taken in just wars, and such strangers as willingly sell themselves, or are sold to us."

Commenting on this article, Palfrey, in his "History of New England," says: "Born of slave mother is not mentioned as cause of slavery ; and in fact no person was ever born into legal slavery in Massachusetts."

In the Constitution of Massachusetts, adopted in 1780, it is declared that "all men are born free and equal."

This was the doom of slavery; and the interpretation of this clause in the case of Commonwealth *v.* Jennison settled finally the freedom of the negro in this State.

In proportion to its size Medford seems to have had a large number of slaves. Out of 114 towns returning the number of negro slaves Medford ranks 12th. In 1755 the number of slaves sixteen years old and upwards was 34, of whom 27 were males. There was no return from Charlestown; but the only other town in Middlesex county returning a larger number was Cambridge, which reported a total of 56.

One of the most valuable bits of statistics, however, relating to Medford is contained in the "Columbian Centinel" of Aug. 17, 1822. It is entitled an "Account of the Houses, Families, Number of White People, Negroes & Indians, in the Province of Mass. Bay, taken in the year 1764 and 1765."

Evidently a census had been undertaken and, as such inquiries were notoriously unpopular, it was either unfinished or at least not published. A copy of it came into the possession of the "Centinel" and was published as an interesting source of local history. That portion relating to Medford is here given in full:

| Houses. | Families. | Males under 16. | Females under 16. | Males over 16. | Females over 16. | Negroes. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 104 | 147 | 161 | 150 | 207 | 223 | 49 | 790 |

The negroes thus constituted one-sixteenth of the population of the town in 1765. By way of compari-

son it may be added that in 1822 Medford had 1,474 inhabitants; in 57 years it had failed to double its population. As the ratio of whites to blacks in the colony at large was 45:1, it is seen that Medford had an unusually large negro population.

So far as I have found records, a strong, able-bodied negro was worth, in 1700, about £18. In the inventory of Maj. Jonathan Wade's property appears the following asset:

5 negroes . . . . . £97;

and elsewhere in his papers is the record: "2 negroes that died appraised @ £35." Still, it is impossible to generalize from such insufficient data. After the beginning of hostilities in 1775 Colonel Royall departed for Nova Scotia, and Dr. Tufts for a while managed his property. Under date of March 12, 1776, Royal writes: "Please to sell the following negroes; Stephen and George; they each cost £60 sterling; and I would take £50, or even £15, apiece for them.[1] Hagar cost £35 sterling, but I will take £30 for her. I gave for Mira £35, but will take £25. If Mr. Benjamin Hall will give the £100 for her which he offered, he may have her, it being a good place. As to Betsey and her daughter Nancy, the former may tarry, or take her freedom, as she may choose; and Nancy you may put out to some good family by the year."

The range of prices is here much higher, averaging about £40.

References to slavery in the Town-meeting Records are very few. The first is in the meeting of Aug. 18, 1718, when it was "Put to Vote whether every inhabitant of this Town Shall when they buy any Servant Male or Female Be obliged to acquaint and inform the Selectmen of S$^{d}$. Town for their approbation;" the motion was carried. Inasmuch as a rather close

[1] George had died the day before this letter was written.

scrutiny was made of all freemen who were newcomers into the town, it is not surprising that this was extended to include the servants.

Although the slaves were a small minority of the population, there was danger in allowing them to run at large ; and, like other "property," if found straying abroad were, in a manner, "*impounded*," as the following vote of the town in 1734 discloses : "All Negroes Indians and Mulattoes — Servants That are found abroad without Leave and not on Their master's business shall be Taken up and *whiped* Ten Stripes on Their Naked back by any freeholder of This Town and be carryed To Their Respective masters and ye Said Master shall be obliged to Pay the Sum of Two shillings and Six pence in money To ye said Person That shall so Do."

On the other hand, the spiritual welfare of the slaves was not neglected. Before 1740 special seats in the meeting-house were provided ; and at a Town meeting in 1741 it was "voted that Jonathan Watson with the advice of the selectmen do make sum more convenience for the negroes to sit in the meeting house." The same meeting, it is to be noticed in passing, declined "to make the School house more comfortable for the winter."

In 1745 the question of straying negroes again came up. The vote of this year differs from that of 1734 in three respects : (1) a specific part of the day is named; (2) the punishment is not inflicted by the person finding the slave; (3) the money fine is omitted. The vote is as follows : "Any person of said Town That shall Se any Negro Servant belonging to Said Town from home after Nine of the Clock at night and if said Servant Cannot satisfy the person That meets or finds him from home The Negros name shall be returned to the Justyce the next morning and desire the Justyce to Send for the Said Negros master and order ye Negro to be whiped in the market place not exceeding Ten

stripes unless the Said master Give Satisfaction." The phrase "give satisfaction" may mean a money compensation or a satisfactory explanation; the latter I am inclined to regard as the intended meaning. Brooks says, "they [*i.e.*, the slaves] were treated much after the manner of children." The statement is ambiguous. Did this law remind him of a curfew regulation?

The records of vital statistics contain frequent notices of slaves. Of these the most numerous are the deaths; the fewest are the marriages. As the master's name is given in many cases, these records also throw light on the question of slave-holders in Medford. About 40 deaths are recorded between 1745 and 1780. It is rather curious that three of Colonel Royall's slaves died within a year, at the outbreak of the Revolution. Perhaps they were heartbroken at his departure. A few entries are given here by way of illustration:

"Peter, Son of Worcester & Flora, Negroes of Rev. Mr. Turell and Stephen Hall, Esq., Dyed Jan. 9, 1762.

"Plato, a Negro Servant of Hon. Isaac Royall Esq., drowned June 8, 1768.

"London, A Negro Man of the Widow Mary Bradshaw's Died Oct. 15, 1760.

"Cæsar, Negro Servant of Ebenezar Brooks of Medford and Zipporah negro Servant of Nathl Brown of Charlestown, married June 23, 1757."

As would be inferred, the number of slave owners was not large, and they were the leading men of the town: the Halls, Brookses and Willises, Dr. Simon Tufts, Rev. Mr. Turrell, and, above all, Col. Isaac Royall. This first Royall brought with him from Antigua a number of slaves and in 1737 petitioned that the duty on them be abated, but no further action than to lay it on the table was taken. He probably had at least fifteen at a time, and the "slave-quarters," so-called, have become an object of considerable historical interest. The entire number of persons holding slaves in the last half of the 18th century probably did not

exceed thirty, the town records giving, indirectly, the names of twenty.[1] Not that our ancestors believed it wrong; the names of Rev. Mr. Turrell and Deacon Benj. Willis would refute that. But economically it was unprofitable, and its ultimate extinction was doubtless the expectation of all who gave the subject any thought.

I have referred to Deacon Benj. Willis as a slaveholder. The following extract from his will may show the attitude of many masters towards those whom they held in service:

"I Benj. Willis . . . for and in consideration of good will which I do bear toward my Negro Woman Cloe of said Medford . . . have given and Granted . . . unto the said Cloe Imediately after my Decease Sundry of my household goods, Namely, as followeth — Viz. my Heifer comeing two years Old. . . .

also the Bedstead which she lays on and the little Bed which she says she Bought: also some Pewter (Viz.) two Pewter dishes & four Pewter Plates, one pint and one half pint Pewter Porringer, my smallest Iron Pottage Pot, two Iron Skillets, one pair of Andirons my Tin Still, the Spining wheel and — four chairs. [some chamber furniture] also I do give the said Cloe her Time and Set her Free Immediately after my Decease. . . .

Benj. Willis
October 5, 1767.

And the administrator of the estate of Benj. Willis credits himself:

"by pasturing the deceased's negro woman's heifer, £4, 10s.

"by sundry clothes for negro man Prince, £35."

[1] Partial list of slaveholders: Capt. Caleb Brooks, Ebenezer Brooks, Samuel Brooks, Capt. Thomas Brooks, —— Bishop, —— Brown, Mary Bradshaw, Andrew Hall, Jonathan Hall, Jr., Stephen Hall, Benj. Hall, Hugh Floyd, Jacob Polly, Zachariah Pool, Isaac Royall, Dr. Simon Tufts, Rev. Mr. Turrell, Stephen Willis, Deacon Benj. Willis, Francis Whitmore.

Similar kind treatment is mentioned by Miss Wild in her article on "Medford in the Revolution" in the case of Zachariah Pool, who left money in his will for the care of his slave, Scipio.

I have set forth, with little comment, the few brief facts relating to slavery in our town. Perhaps, on the whole, it is a matter of congratulation that the facts are so meagre. "Happy is the people whose annals are uninteresting!"

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## NOTES.

In the article on the Second Church and Mystic Church, which appeared in the April number of the Register, the date of Rev. Dr. Manning's death was incorrectly printed as occurring in 1872. It should have been *1882*.

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The Committee on Membership is doing excellent work and has presented a number of applications for membership.

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The fee for admission, including dues to the following annual meeting, has been reduced from three dollars to *two* dollars.

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The Publication Committee requests the coöperation of every society member in the work of securing subscriptions for the current and past years of the Register.

Are *you* a subscriber?

# DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL TABLET TO SARAH (BRADLEE) FULTON.

Helen Tilden Wild.

MORE than sixty years ago, in the gray of a November morning, the "Passing Bell" announced that a life was ended. Seventy, eighty, ninety, ninety-five, the bell tolled out, and many guessed that the aged mistress of the woodland farm, who only the day before had been about her usual tasks, was gone. A procession came slowly through the gate of the burying-place. There walked sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but the old friends who had known Sarah Fulton in her youth were gathered there before her in their narrow homes.

She was laid in the tomb belonging to Nathan Wait, her son-in-law, and in a few years only her descendants cherished the memory of her words and deeds.

The years brought changes to the town, but few to the little hamlet of the dead. Over the grass-grown mounds bent the lofty trees, and in their branches the birds sang and nested as their forebears had done for two hundred years.

There came a time when a wave of devotion to patriot ancestors swept over the land, and a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was formed in the city of Medford, which took the name of Sarah Bradlee Fulton.

From its organization, the Chapter hoped to erect a tablet to her memory. On May twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred, this desire was granted and the dedication took place. With the hum of electric cars on one side and the puffing of locomotives on the other, how different

the company gathered on that spring afternoon from the one that stood before that tomb in the village quiet of 1835! Two persons were present on both occasions, Mrs. Susan (Smith) Wait and her son Francis A. Wait, the former the widow of Nathan W. Wait, grandson of Mrs. Fulton.

The State Regent of Massachusetts, and the regents of twenty chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution, came to honor the patriot woman.

Descendants of Mrs. Fulton, representing the fourth, fifth, and sixth generations, were present. Only one of the third generation was living, Mr. John A. Fulton, of Cambridge, whom infirmity prevented from being present.

Residents of Medford, and the members of Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter, stood around, and as the strains of "Duke Street" rose with the words,

> "Great God of Nations! now to Thee
> Our hymn of gratitude we raise,"

all felt the solemnity of the hour.

The first company who gathered there were mourning for a departed mother, a woman who had been heroic in her efforts to provide the best for them, to deny herself, to keep her courage in adversity, and to bring up her ten children in the fear of the Lord.

The second assembly thanked God for her life and the service she rendered when her country needed every man and woman to found a glorious republic.

The tablet raised to her memory is a rough slab of native granite, set on a foundation of field stone.

Medford furnished the material and the workmen to complete the monument.

For fifty years Sarah Fulton passed back and forth over this stone, which was at the threshold of her home.

If the old stone could speak, what tales it could tell

of the glad days and the sad days of her long and useful life.

Over it walked the bearers as they carried forth all that was mortal of John Fulton, the husband of her youth, and over it tripped the brides, as one by one her children went out to found homes of their own; over it pattered the little feet of her grandchildren, and over it she went to her long home.

Some thirty years ago the old house was burned, and beside the cellar wall only the door stone was left.

The property passed out of the family, but fortunately into the hands of one who venerates the past of his native town, and through his generosity the tablet was obtained.[1]

The dedication exercises were very simple. In the absence of the Chaplain of the Chapter (who was prevented by illness) the invocation was pronounced by Rev. Henry C. DeLong, pastor of the First Parish, of which Mrs. Fulton was a member.

The Regent of the Chapter, Mrs. Charles H. Loomis, spoke briefly, introducing the State Regent, who in beautiful language gave a history of the patriotic deeds of Mrs. Fulton, enjoining the audience, and through them the people of Massachusetts, to emulate the devotion to country which she possessed.

The Secretary of the Chapter read a poem written for the occasion by C. H. Loomis.

For the descendants of John and Sarah (Bradlee) Fulton, William Cushing Wait, Esq., addressed the assembly, speaking of his ancestress first as a mother, then as a patriot.

Rev. Millard F. Johnson, of the First Baptist Church, gave the benediction.

Wreathed in laurel tied with the colors of the Daughters of the American Revolution, facing the little cemetery, where many flags waved over graves of

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[1] Gen. Samuel C. Lawrence.

soldiers of the War of Independence, the tablet stands inscribed:

SARAH BRADLEE FULTON

1740–1835

A HEROINE OF THE REVOLUTION

ERECTED BY THE

SARAH BRADLEE FULTON CHAPTER, D. A. R.

1900

In the words of the Regent of the Chapter, "The memory of the lives of those noble women of a hundred years ago is a legacy to every American woman, a trust to be proud of, and one to be administered in the spirit of unselfish devotion, lofty purpose, and true womanhood."

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The Committee on Papers and Addresses has given an interesting series the past season:

*November.* — "The Second and Mystic Churches," by Charles Cummings.

*December.* — "The Homes of the Puritans," by Rev. T. F. Waters.

*January.* — "Benjamin Hall," by Helen T. Wild.

*February.* — "The Royall House and Farm," by John H. Hooper.

*April.* — "Paul Revere's Ride," with lantern slides, by W. C. Eddy.

*May.* — "Slavery in Medford," by Walter H. Cushing.

# THE CUTTER FAMILY AND ITS CONNECTION WITH A TIDE MILL IN MEDFORD.

By William R. Cutter, Librarian, Woburn, Mass.

JOHN CUTTER (of the fifth generation from Richard Cutter), who was son of Gershom and Anna (Fillebrown) Cutter, owned (probably hired) a tide mill in Medford, afterwards occupied by his son Gershom Cutter. He was born in Menotomy, in that part of Cambridge now known as Arlington, Mass., Sept. 26, 1737, and died in Medford, where he long pursued the occupation of a miller, Oct. 16, 1788. His wife, Rebecca Hill, whose mother was Rebecca Cutter, and who herself was a granddaughter of Dea. John Cutter, of Menotomy, died in Medford, April 16, 1826. The first three children of this couple were born at Arlington, and the last seven were born in Medford. The first child, whose name was Rebecca, married William Cutter, a descendant of Ebenezer Cutter, a cousin of the Dea. John Cutter above mentioned, whose wife was Deacon Cutter's aunt. This William resided in Medford and Boston, where he died July 27, 1800. His widow died Aug. 2, 1852, aged eighty-seven, leaving children whose descendants were all of them well known in Medford, under the names of Sprague, Foster, and Cutter.

The son John, of the above-named John, born at Menotomy, July 26, 1770, married Mary, daughter of Stephen and Mary (Hill) Hall, of Medford, his cousin, being a granddaughter of Zachariah and Mary (Cutter) Hill, of Arlington. This man, known as Captain John Cutter, from his connection with the militia of Medford, died in Woburn, in that part known as Winchester, Mass., Nov. 23, 1825. His wife, who was born June 22, 1772, died Feb. 27, 1848. He assumed the charge of his father's tide or grist mill when his father died. His mother continued to occupy the old mill house for

some two or three years after her husband's death, and then John married and dwelt there himself. He had quite a career as a miller in the West Indies and Canada, and really was quite an enterprising man. Not long after 1801 he built a wind-mill in Medford for grinding grain. At Medford also he became one of the earliest fishermen on an extensive scale in the Mystic river. For this right, in 1803, he paid sixty-five dollars, the privilege being more particularly near the "Dike" or "Labor in Vain," and he often piloted vessels at this time between Medford and Boston. He owned lighters and transported brick to the city, some of which are now seen in the buildings on Central wharf and Doctor Sharp's (now Charles street) church. In 1810, having purchased the grist mill of Caleb Richardson, in Woburn, latterly known as the Cutter's mill, in Cutter's village, in Winchester, he built a new structure with two run of stone, which he improved and occupied until his death. In 1817 he built a grist mill in North Chelsea run by tide water, which was occupied by his sons till the year 1830, when they sold the estate and removed to Winchester.

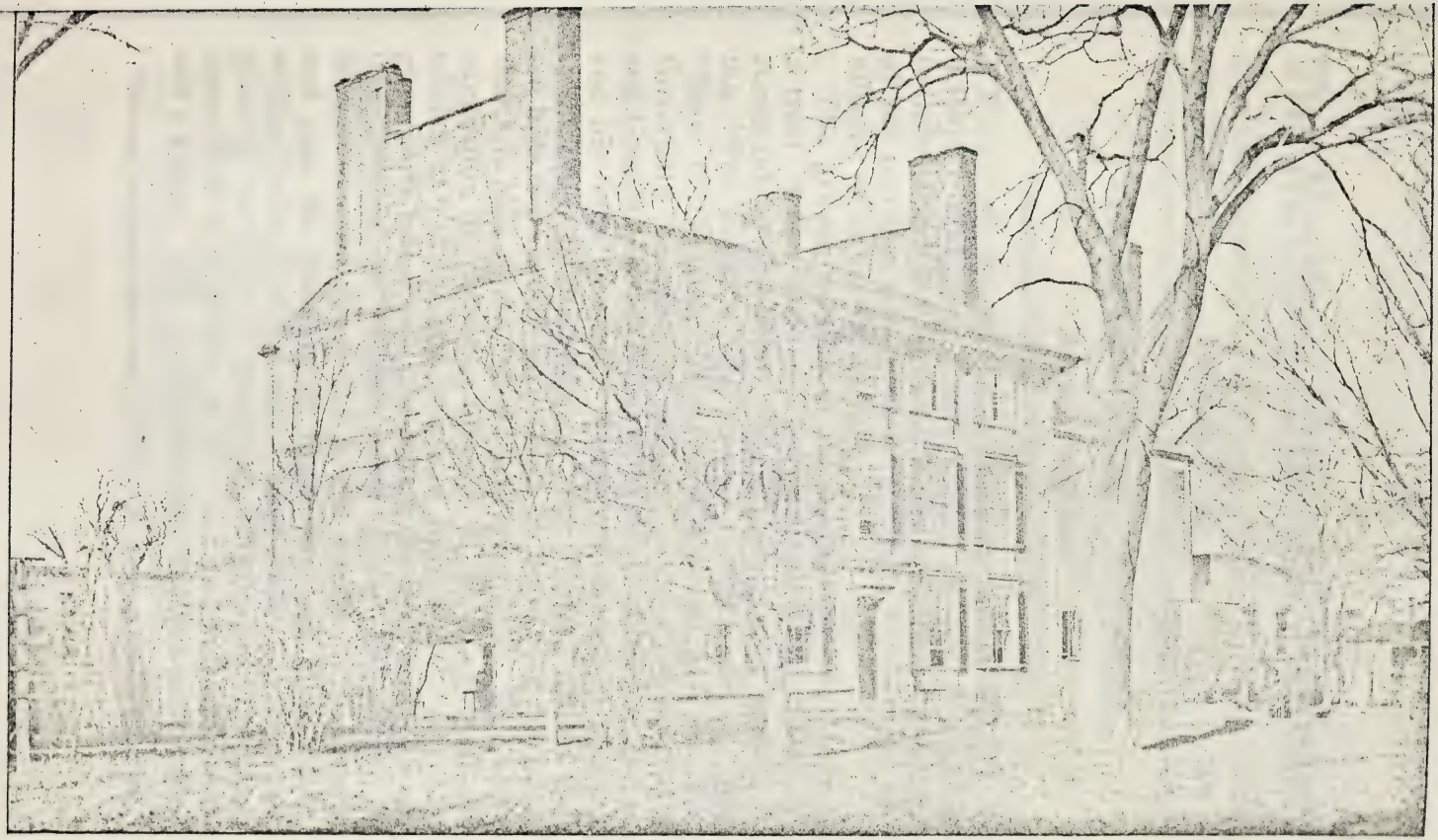
Zachariah Cutter, a brother of the last-named John, carried on the old tide mill in Medford for a number of years, and then went to Milton, Mass., and engaged in the same business. His death occurred in 1808.

Gershom Cutter, a brother of the above, after having had charge of the North mills in Boston, bought the old homestead mills in Medford, and building a new grist and saw mill in 1810, continued in the same occupation till his death in Medford, May 22, 1840. His son Gershom carried on his father's mill until 1845, when he purchased the Tufts mill on the Medford turnpike (now Mystic avenue), rebuilt that structure, which had been destroyed by fire, and which was again burned and rebuilt while in his charge. He was mainly engaged in the sawing of mahogany. Other brothers of this family ran grist and saw mills elsewhere than in Medford, and quite successfully.

The ancestors of these Cutters were also noted millers at present Arlington, but John of the fifth generation, with an account of whom we began this article, was the first of this name to begin the mill business in Medford. Few families have probably had so many millers in their family connection as the Cutters.

There is this record, which possesses some interest as illustrating the family occupation of the Cutters. It refers to the first John we have mentioned: "Funeral, Medford, 1788, Oct. 17 — Mr. John Cutter, the miller" —

The title to the Cutter tide mill in Medford appears to be as follows, according to the published history of Medford: In 1746 the tide mill near Sandy Bank was built, the first of its kind in that part of the town. Its origin arose in articles of agreement between a number of citizens, owners of the land, and a number of other citizens who were the undertakers of the enterprise. These articles were dated Feb. 20, 1746. Certain procedure was necessary to complete the undertaking, such as giving lands, and opening a straight road from the market to the mill site, and building a stone bridge over Gravelly creek for the mill's accommodation, the building of a dam, etc. The mill was to be ready for use before the last day of September, 1746. It was successfully completed and answered well its purpose. Timothy Waite, Jr., acquired possession at an early period in its history. Seth Blodget bought it of him on March 9, 1761. Matthew Bridge followed Blodget on Oct. 18, 1780. Mr. Bridge disposed of it to the Bishops — John, Senior, and John, Junior — in 1783 and 1784, and John Bishop, probably the junior, sold the whole to Gershom Cutter, who was followed in ownership by Samuel Cutter, George T. Goodwin, and Joseph Manning. These items regarding the Cutters differ a little from the statements of the preceding articles, which are based on facts received from descendants (mostly now deceased) of the John Cutter who first occupied the mill before the year 1788.



THE ROYALL HOUSE, MEDFORD, MASS.

# The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. III. OCTOBER, 1900. No. 4.

## THE ROYALL HOUSE AND FARM.[1]

BY JOHN H. HOOPER.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, Feb. 19, 1900.]

IT is not my purpose to go into a general history of the Royall estate, but I shall confine myself principally to the changes that have taken place in the construction of the mansion house, speaking briefly of the farm and of some of its earlier owners.

The greater portion of the Royall farm was part of a tract of 600 acres of land granted by the Court of Assistants to Governor John Winthrop, and known as the "Ten Hills." The records of the court say that, "Sept. 6, 1631, the Court of Assistants grant to Mr. Governour 600 acres of land, to be set forth by metes and bounds near his house at Mistick to enjoy it, to him and his heirs forever." There are two suggestions as to the origin of the name of "Ten Hills;" one is that ten hills were comprised within its limits, and the other that ten hills could be counted around it. The latter suggestion is the one adopted in R. C. Winthrop's edition of the life and letters of John Winthrop. The governor's house was situated on the way leading from Charlestown to Mistick ford (now Broadway in Somerville and Main and South streets in Medford), and near the junction of Broadway and Main street, within the limits of the city of Somerville. Prior to this grant by the Court of Assistants, the governor had taken possession of a portion of the land and had built himself a house. July 4, 1631, he launched his bark, called

[1] Drawing and plans were made by Charles E. Hooper, of New York City.

the "Blessing of the Bay," which was built near his house on the banks of the Mistick river. The whole country hereabouts was covered with a heavy growth of timber, except in such places as had been burnt over by the Indians for the purposes of cultivation.

An illustration of the condition of the country is afforded by an incident that happened to the governor, and which is related in Winthrop's history of New England: "Oct. 11, 1631, the Governour being at his house at Mistick, walked out after supper, and took a piece in his hand, supposing he might see a wolf (for they came daily about the house and killed swine, calves, & etc.), and being about half a mile off, it grew suddenly dark, so as in coming home, he mistook his path and went till he came to a little house of Sagamore John, which stood empty. There he stayed, and having a piece of match in his pocket, (for he always carried about him, match and a compass, and in the summer snake weed), he made a good fire near the house, and lay down upon some old mats, which he found there, and so spent the night, sometimes walking by the fire, sometimes singing psalms and sometimes getting wood, but could not sleep. It was (through God's mercy) a warm night, but a little before day it begun to rain, and, having no cloak, he made shift by a long pole to climb up into the house. In the morning there came thither an Indian Squaw, but perceiving her before she opened the door, he barred her out, yet she staid there a great while, essaying to get in. At last she went away, and he returned safe home. His servants having been much perplexed for him, and having walked about, and shot off pieces, and hallooed in the night, but he heard them not." The dwelling-place of Sagamore John, as shown on Wood's map, published in 1635, was on the westerly slope of Walnut Tree hill (now College hill), not far from where the Indian remains were found a few years ago, by employees of the Mystic Water Works in building a street. These remains were found where new

Waterworks street (now Capen street) connected with old Waterworks street (a part of which is now called Emery street, and the part connecting with the new street being now discontinued); and in all probability the reason why the governor could not hear the shouts and guns of his servants was because Walnut Tree hill with its heavy growth of walnut trees was in a direct line between the house of Sagamore John and his own house. Governor Winthrop died in 1649, and the farm came into the possession of his son, John Winthrop, Jr., of Hartford, Conn. John, Jr., died in 1676, and his heirs sold the farm, May 11, 1677, to Mrs. Elizabeth Lidgett, for the sum of 3,300 pounds. Mrs. Lidgett sold to her son, Lieut.-Col. Charles Lidgett, Oct. 13, 1677, one undivided half part of the farm, and Feb. 10, 1685, the remaining half part. Prior to the sale to Mrs. Lidgett, John Winthrop, Jr., sold in 1670, to Benanuel Bowers, about four acres of marsh land, now situated in Medford, and known as Labor In Vain point. It was through this piece of marsh land that the highway or canal was cut in 1761.

Lieut.-Col. Charles Lidgett was the friend and adherent of Sir Edmund Andros, the first royal governor of New England during the "Inter-Charter Period." The assertation of Governor Andros that the abrogation of the first Colonial Charter reinvested all land titles in the crown, caused widespread consternation. Some proprietors endeavored to strengthen their titles by procuring deeds from the Indians, which acts brought forth from the governor a criticism of the Indian signatures, "That their hand was no more worth then the scratch of a Bears paw." He confirmed his friend Colonel Lidgett in his title to the "Ten Hills" and also granted him the "Stinted Pasture." (The Stinted Pasture was a tract of land containing about 300 acres, bounded southerly on the Menotomy road (Broadway); westerly on the Menotomy river (Alewive brook); northerly on Mistick river and easterly on the

Ten Hills.) Colonel Lidgett then began to prosecute the rightful owners of this pasture for cutting wood and other alleged trespasses. After the downfall of the Andros administration, in 1689, Colonel Lidgett was arrested and thrown into prison, from which he was released on bail. He went to England in February, 1689–90, and died there in 1698.

In 1692 (there are reasons for fixing this as the date, although there is no record of the transfer) that portion of the Ten Hills now situated in Medford came into the possession of Lieut.-Gov. John Usher by his wife Elizabeth (Lidgett) Usher, sister to Col. Charles Lidgett. Mr. Usher was a counsellor and treasurer under the Andros administration, and was afterwards called to an account upon charges of raising money in an arbitrary manner during his term of office.

In 1692 he was appointed lieutenant-governor of New Hampshire. He held the office five years, and at the expiration of the term, in 1697, removed from Portsmouth, N.H., to his Charlestown (now Medford) farm, where he died Sept. 5, 1726.

Mr. Usher added to his estate by purchasing parts of the Stinted Pasture that adjoined his farm. It will be remembered that this pasture was granted by Governor Andros to Colonel Lidgett, but the grant became void upon the downfall of the governor's administration. In the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 14, p. 227, may be found a mortgage deed (also a plan of the estate) to John Wainwright, signed by John and Elizabeth Usher, an abstract of which is as follows: "Part of the farm called Ten Hills, now partly in the tenure, occupation, or improvement of the said John Usher . . . and partly in the tenure or occupation of Joseph Whittemore, tenant of the said John Usher. Containing 454 acres of land, or 309 acres of upland and 145 acres of marsh . . . together with the brick house in which the said John Usher now dwells, and the house in which the said Joseph Whitte-

more, the tenant now dwells." . . . The brick house mentioned above was the Royall house (in part), and the house of Joseph Whittemore the tenant stood where the Mystic house now stands. In February, 1732–3, Elizabeth Usher and others, heirs of John Usher sold to Col. Isaac Royall their estate in Charlestown (now Medford) containing 504 acres 3 roods and 23 rods, for the sum of 10,350 pounds 7 shillings and 9 pence. Colonel Royall came to reside upon his estate in 1737, and died there in 1739. (He was born in 1672, at North Yarmouth, Maine.) His son, Col. Isaac Royall (born in Antigua, in 1719), succeeded to the estate, which he enlarged by various purchases, and continued to reside thereon until the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, when he became a refugee. (He left Medford April 16, 1775, and died in England in 1781.) The Royall estate was confiscated by the General Court, and the Commonwealth held possession until 1806, when it was released for a nominal consideration ($1) to Mr. Robert Fletcher, who purchased the rights of the Royall heirs for the sum of 16,000 pounds. Since that time it has been laid out into house lots and sold to various owners. All that now remains intact of this magnificent estate is the mansion house and slave quarters, with about four acres of land.

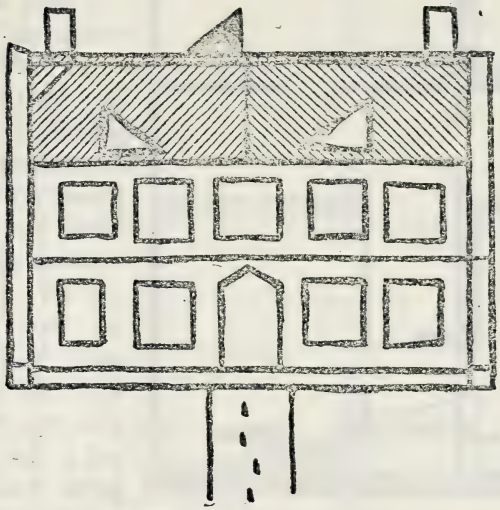
For plans of the Winthrop and Usher farms see Vol. I., No. 4, pages 123–5, of the Medford Historical Register.

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE ROYALL HOUSE.

The first step in the evolution of the Royall house was a building forty-five feet in length and eighteen feet in width, two stories in height; two rooms upon each floor, making, including the garrets, a six-roomed house.[1] The floors of the garrets being about three feet below the top of the plate made these rooms fairly good ones. Two dormer windows on the east slope of

[1] The original house is shown on plans in solid black.

the roof furnished light and air for the garrets, and in the centre of the building, over the stairway, as high up as the ridge of the roof, was another dormer window, which furnished light and air for the upper entry and staircase ; the position of the entries or hallways was in the middle of the building as at present. There were two chimneys, one at each end of the building. The rear and end walls were of brick, every other course of brick being a course of headers ; the front or east wall was of wood ; the position of the door and windows in this front wall were as in the present building (see old sketch). In the cellar may be seen what was once an opening through the rear wall. This was the doorway leading to the outside ; its position and its use are plainly visible (see a, cellar plan).



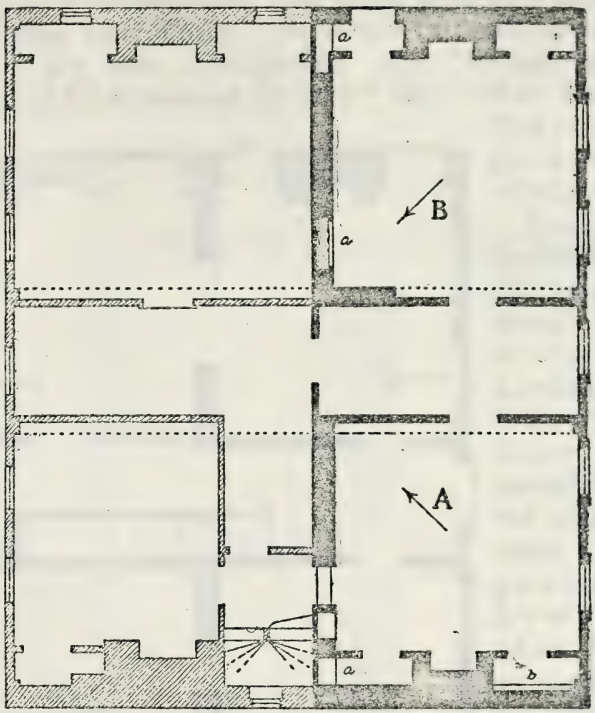
SKETCH OF BUILDING.

From old plan dated October, 1732, recorded in Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds.

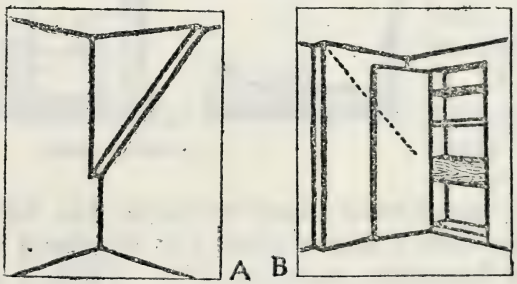
The original rafters of the west slope of the roof are still in place and can be seen in the garret (see a, section). All but two of them have been cut off above the ceiling of the third story so as not to interfere with the finish of the rooms in that story. The two that still remain entire are built into the partitions on either side of the entry way (see A and B, third-floor plan) ; their positions can be easily traced.

The old west wall, except such portions as have been

removed to allow of doorways and staircases, still remains. The old plate on the top of this wall upon which the rafters rested can be seen in the closets of the third story (see *a a a*, third-floor plan).



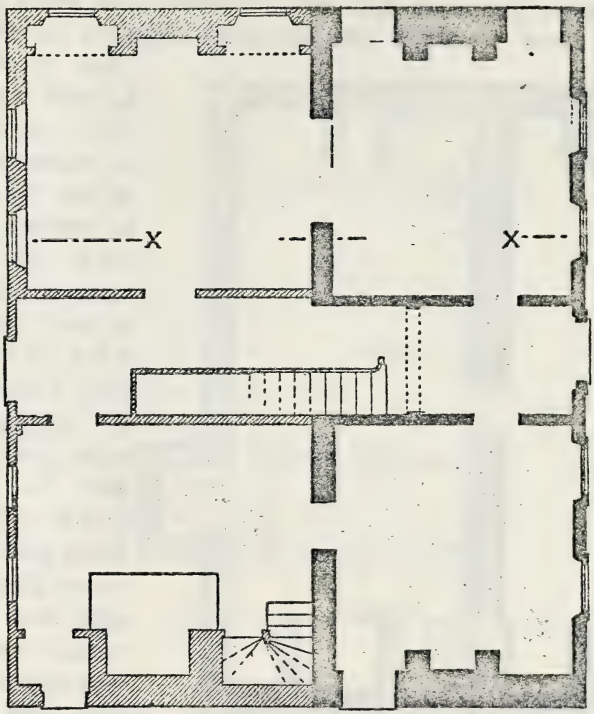

The date of the construction of this building is unknown. It is far more ancient than it has generally been supposed to be, and was probably built for the use of the tenant who occupied the westerly portion of the Ten Hills farm, very likely during the ownership of the Winthrops.




THIRD FLOOR.

Col. Charles Lidgett, writing from England to his agent, Mr. Francis Foxcroft, under date of Nov. 5, 1690, speaks of his tenant, Thomas Marrable, who occupied a portion of the Ten Hills farm.

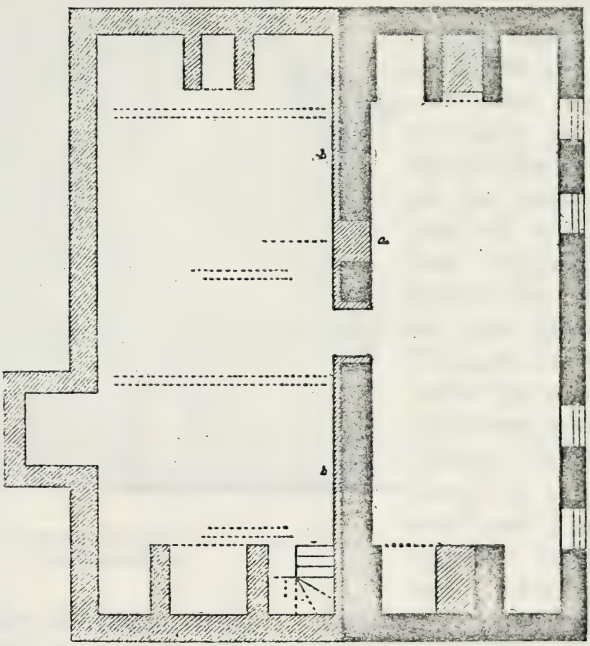
From the correspondence between Colonel Lidgett and his agent it is inferred that Thomas Marrable occupied the westerly portion of the Ten Hills farm on which the Royall house now stands. No doubt he lived in the old house we are now considering. Mr. Wyman in his "History of Charlestown Estates" says "that Thomas Marrable lived at Usher's farm."



First Floor.

Such was probably the building that stood here at the time Lieutenant-Governor Usher took possession of the estate in 1692. It is probable, however, that before or soon after he removed here from Portsmouth, N. H., in 1697, he made an addition to the building, as the old structure must have been entirely unsuited to a family of the wealth and social standing of Governor Usher's. The addition supposed to have been made at this time enlarged the ground floor to its present dimensions. The end walls were of brick and the west wall of wood. As a matter of course, the cellar was enlarged at the same time. In excavating for

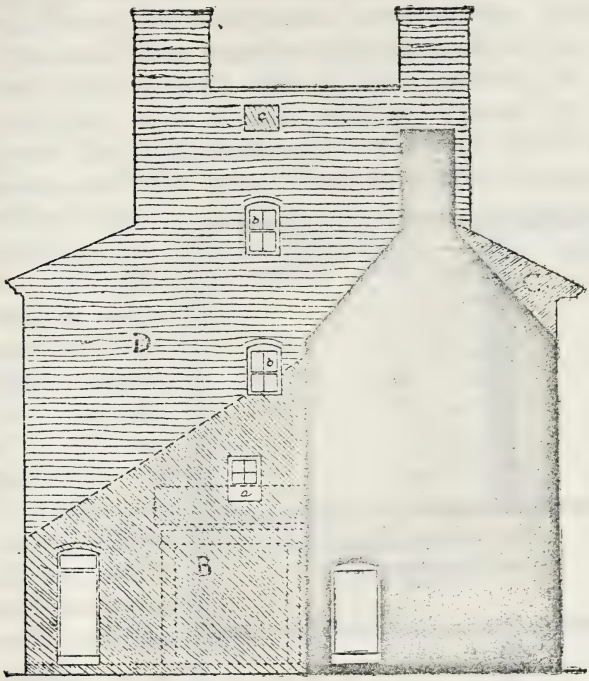
this new part of the cellar, the stone foundation of the old part of the building was exposed, and in order to support the floor timbers of the new part, and to strengthen and cover up the irregularities of the old wall, it was lined up with brick (see b b, cellar plan), thus making the division wall between the two cellars of great thickness. The roof was a single pitch, running from the eaves of the old building down to the height of a single story on the back or west side (see B, south end). This is the old familiar style so common in those days, and known as a leanto. This addition was twenty feet in width and forty-five feet in length. A single window in the south wall that lighted the back stairway, and also the low chamber under the roof, can still be seen (see A, second-floor plan, also a, south end). In this south wall can also be seen a perpendicular line showing where the brickwork of the addition was butted against the old building. In fact, the whole outline of the original building can be plainly seen on the south elevation of the present structure.



CELLAR.

I am free to admit that the foregoing description of

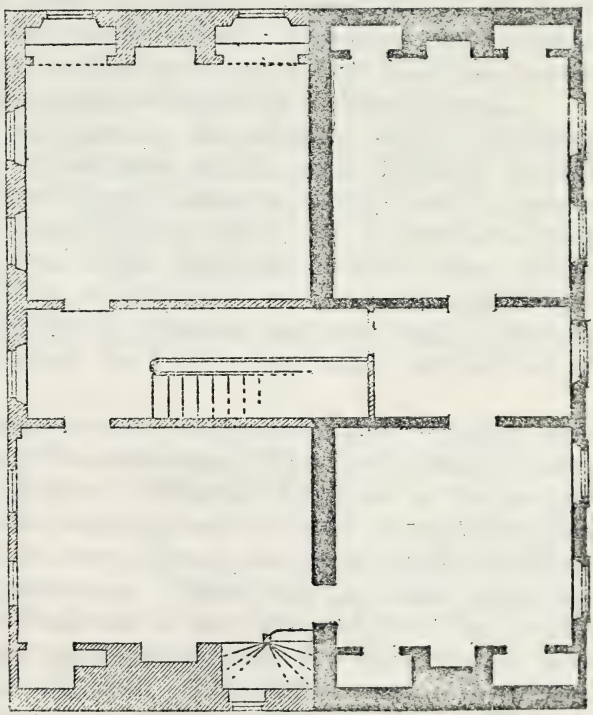
what is assumed to be the second step in the evolution of this building is largely problematical, but I shall submit the evidence upon which this assumption is drawn, and ask of our readers a careful analysis of the same. *First*, I will refer to the window already spoken of in the south elevation that shows just above the roof of the porch, a part of which was originally below the roof of this porch. It is not in line with the other windows in the stories above (see b b, south end), and there appears to be no reason whatever why all these windows should not have been placed in line with each other, provided that they had all been constructed at the same time. It will also be noticed that this lower window has a straight head, while those above have segment-heads, thus indicating a different period of construction. The probabilities are that this lower window was placed on one side of the stairway, so as to throw as much light as possible into the room under the roof of the leanto, while at the time the windows in the stories above were constructed no




SOUTH END, SHOWING THE SEVERAL STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION.

such reason for thus lighting the chambers existed, as they had plenty of light from the rear or courtyard side of the building, and they were therefore placed near the centre of the stairway so as to light both the upper and lower parts of the same.

*Second*, If an examination be made of the large cracks that exist on each side of the doorway in the west or courtyard side of the building, caused by the shrinkage of the finish around this doorway, it will be found that underneath the panel work that now forms the outside of the present building can be seen the ends of clapboards that once formed the outside of a former building. It is believed that this clapboarded wall was the wall of the leanto, and that when the building was enlarged to its present dimensions at a still later period, the present panel work, pilasters, and other finish were put on over the old clapboarded wall.



A
SECOND FLOOR.

*Third*, Second-hand timber, or timber that had been used in some former structure, was used in framing the

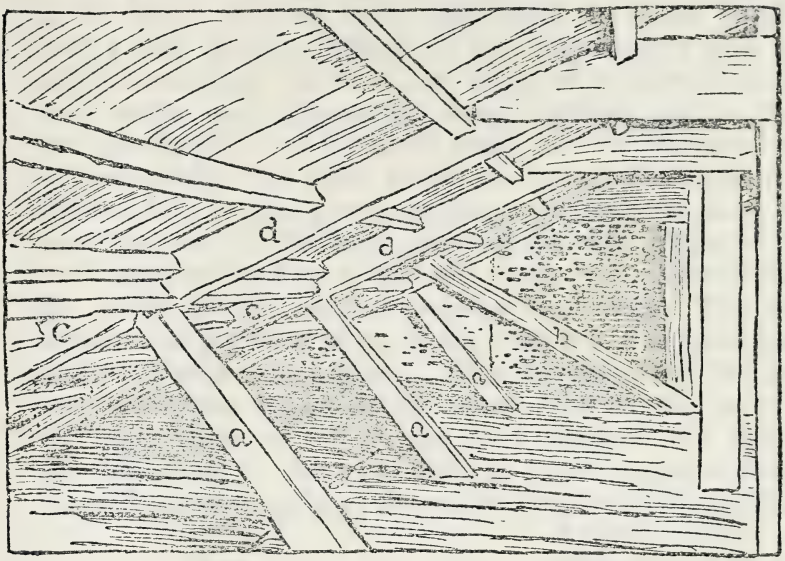
roof of the present building. It is hardly possible that when the building assumed its present shape, with timber as cheap as it must have been in those days, the builder purchased old material for its construction. Without doubt this old material came from the roof of the leanto, the timbers of which would have been long and large enough to have made the present roof timbers.

I have said that in all probability Lieutenant-Governor Usher made this addition. Yet there is no positive evidence of it. It may have been done by Colonel Royall at the time he raised the east half of the roof, as will be hereinafter described. Tradition (not always a safe guide) says that Governor Usher built the house, and it was afterwards enlarged by Colonel Royall.

This, then, was possibly the condition of the building at the time of its purchase by the senior Colonel Royall in 1733. Colonel Royall came to reside upon his estate in 1737 and died here in 1739. It is probable that between the time of the purchase and the time of the taking up of his residence here he made additional changes in the dwelling-house, and also built a portion of the house called the "slave quarters" for the use of his slaves.

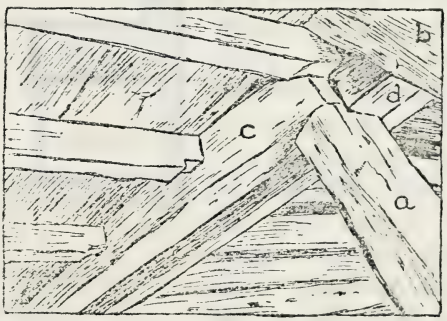
The third step in the evolution of this building consisted in raising the east slope of the roof (see C, south end) so as to give an additional elevation to the east or front wall of the building, and to allow of upright windows in the third story, giving the front of the building its present appearance. There was no other apparent change. The thickness of the extra height of the brickwork in the end walls occasioned by this change was less than in the old wall. This can be seen in the closet in the south-east room of the third story (b). We are fortunate in possessing a plan of this estate made just previous to and while negotiations for its sale to Colonel Royall were in progress. This plan is on record in the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, and shows the front elevation of the building as it then

existed. We are also fortunate in possessing evidence in the building itself that this was the only change that took place at that time in the main part of the house.




This alteration will be more fully described in the next and final step of the evolution of the mansion house.

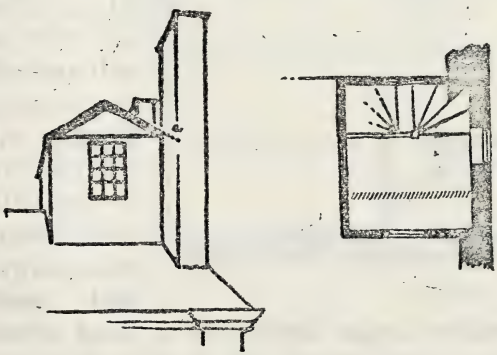
In the fourth and final stage of construction the building assumed its present fine proportions, and also its elaborate finish both inside and outside. I am quite sure that this was done during the ownership of the second Colonel




THE FRAMING OF THE ROOF.

*a a a*, Old rafters; *b*, Brace inserted to relieve strain after end rafters were cut off; *c c c*, Front rafters of the third stage of construction. *d d d*, Splice made to continue *c c c*, and shape the front slope of the present roof.

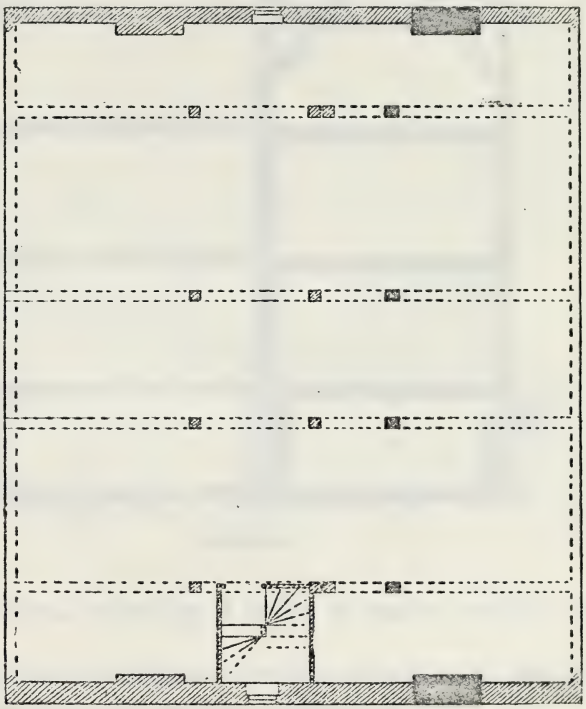
Royall. As has been before stated, the first Colonel Royall lived but two years on his Charlestown (now Medford) estate. And it is hardly possible that after making the changes previously described he should in so short a time have proceeded to make another and a still greater change in the appearance and size of the building. In this last stage of construction the end walls and chimneys were carried up to their present height (see D, south end), as was also the west or rear wall; the front slope of the roof remained as it was left by the previous stage of construction; the roof timbers in the new part of the east slope of the roof were spliced on to the old ones (see illustrations), the pitch of the roof remaining the same. The roof timbers on the west slope of the roof are of second-hand materials and in one piece. The boarding of the roof runs from the ridge to the eaves, and at the point on the east slope of where the roof timbers are spliced the boarding of the new part is butted against that of the old part throughout the entire length of the building.



CUPOLA.

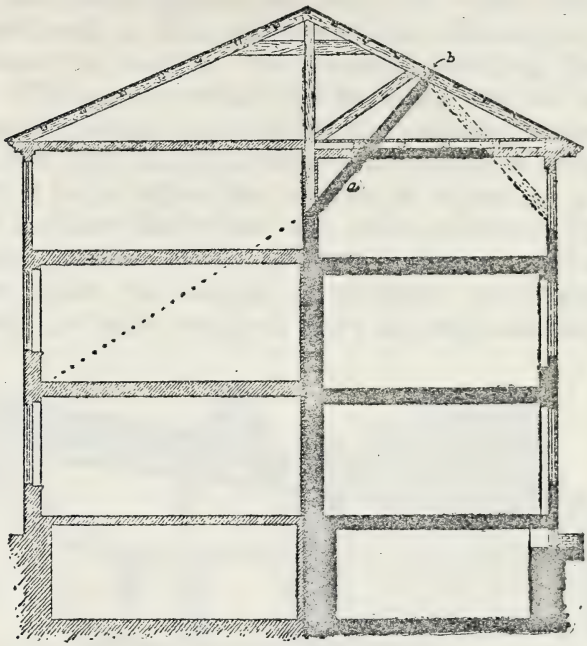
A part of the old ridge-board is still attached to the boarding (b, section). Three new windows appeared in the south end of the building, one of which was in the wall above the roof, and was used as a lookout from the cupola that was on the south end of the roof directly over the back stairway. This cupola is shown in sketch. As a matter of course, this suggestion as to its appearance is largely ideal, there being no positive evidence to guide us. Granted the

existence of a cupola, of which there is undoubted evidence, there must have been windows on the north, east, and west sides as well as in the south side through the brick wall. There are marks on the east side of the southwest chimney that would seem to indicate that the pitch of the roof was as shown in the drawing, that is, at a right angle with that of the main building (see a, sketch). The stairs leading to the cupola are still in position. The lookout window has been closed up (its position can be seen at the present time, see c, south end), and the cupola has disappeared. The north end of the building is covered with clapboards. These clapboards have a moulded edge, while those upon the front and rear of the house have a square edge. The lower windows in this north end are furnished with heavy outside shutters, and those in the upper story and garret are hung on hinges and swing outwards. The walls in the northwest rooms of the first and second stories are about six inches higher than the



ATTIC.

remaining rooms in the same stories. I have entirely ignored the wooden addition on the north end of the




SECTION.

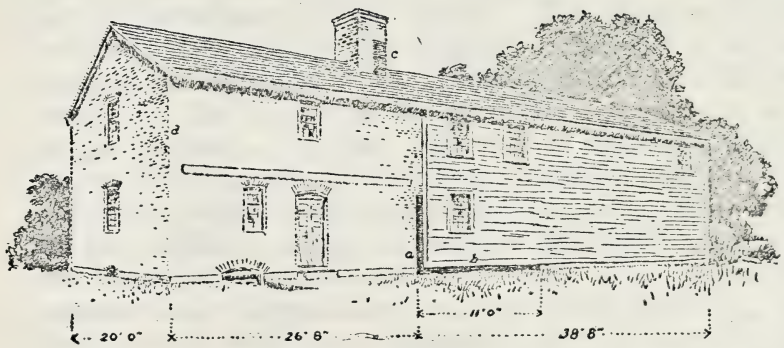
mansion house, believing it to be of more modern construction.

I am inclined to believe that the porch upon the south side was built by the second Colonel Royall.

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE "SLAVE QUARTERS."

Standing to the left and slightly in the rear of the mansion house is a building familiarly known as the "slave quarters." This building, like its more aristocratic neighbor, has been evolved from a very small beginning. The first step in its evolution was a brick and wooden building twenty feet in width, its length unknown (from

an examination of the south foundation wall it appears to have been about eleven feet, see b, sketch), one story in height, the west wall only being of brick. The chimney was built against and into this west wall, and what is believed to be a portion of this chimney can be seen above the roof of the present building (see c, sketch). The use to which this building was put is unknown, and although it is not like the mansion house and stable shown upon the plan of the estate made in October, 1732, still it is probable that it was in existence at that time. It is quite likely that the senior Colonel Royall built some portion of the present building. Bringing with him from the island of Antigua twenty-seven slaves, he must have required more accommodations for




SLAVE QUARTERS.

them than this first building would furnish. The next step in the evolution of the slave quarters was the brick portion of the present building. This building is two stories in height and contains two rooms, with a deep cellar under the whole. The lower room, with its ample fireplace and brick oven, was the kitchen, where tradition says the food of the slaves was prepared. The upper room was probably used as a sleeping-apartment. It will be seen that in the construction of this addition the brickwork on the north and south sides was butted

against the brick end of the first building, thus making the old brick wall a part of the new addition (a, sketch). The brickwork in the south side and west end of this structure has in every fourth course a course of headers. This is the same construction as appears in the new part of the mansion house. The bond in the north brick wall is the old Flemish bond, every course alternate headers and stretchers. The third step in the evolution of this building is the wooden portion of the present building. There is little of interest in this addition except that a small portion of the cellar has been partitioned off by a solid stone wall and lighted by two small windows, one on each side. A doorway connects it with the cellar under the brick addition. This cellar may possibly be the dungeon tradition speaks of as a place that once existed for the punishment of the slaves. The chimney of this addition (this may be the original chimney) is laid up against the chimney of the brick addition, and the two united at the top so as to give the appearance of a single chimney. On the west side of the brick portion of the building was at one time a wooden addition two stories in height, length unknown, the only visible proof of this addition being the mortar that still adheres to the brick wall on the north and south sides, where the outside finish lapped over on the brick building, and the joints of which were plastered over to keep out the weather (see d, sketch). This is the same arrangement that exists in the present building, where the brick and wooden parts are joined together. As has been before stated, the dates of the construction of these several additions are unknown. I have endeavored to show what this building is and has been, and will leave our readers to draw their own conclusions. Taken altogether it is one of the most interesting relics of slavery in Massachusetts that can be found within the limits of the Commonwealth.

The aspect of the place is thus described by Samuel Adams Drake, author of the "History of Middlesex

County." (This description was written many years ago. Changes have taken place since then ; a portion of the inside embellishments have been removed, and the summer house torn down.)

"The brick quarters which the slaves occupied are situated on the south side of the mansion and front upon the courtyard, one side of which they enclose. These have remained unchanged, and are, we believe, the last visible relics of slavery in New England. The deep fireplace where the slaves prepared their food is still there, and the roll of slaves has certainly been called in sight of Bunker hill, though never on its summit.

"At either end of the building the brick wall, furnished with a pair of stout chimneys, rises above the pitched roof, the cornice and corners are relieved by ornamental woodwork, while the west face is panelled, and further decorated with fluted pilasters. On this side, too, the original windows are seen.

"The Royall house stood in the midst of grounds laid out in elegant taste and embellished with fruit-trees and shrubbery. These grounds were separated from the highway by a low brick wall, now demolished. The gateway opening upon the grand avenue was flanked by wooden posts. Farther to the right was the carriage drive, on either side of which massive stone gate-posts, as antique in appearance as anything about the old mansion; seventy paces back from the road, along the broad gravelled walk, bordered with box, brings you to the door.

"Behind the house, as we view it, was an enclosed garden of half an acre or more, with walks, fruit-trees, and a summer house at the farther extremity. No doubt this was the favorite resort of the family and their guests.

"This summer house, a veritable curiosity in its way, is placed upon an artificial mound with two terraces, and is reached by broad flights of red sandstone steps. It is octagonal in form, with a bell-shaped roof, sur-

mounted by a cupola, on which is placed a figure of Mercury.

"Without lingering in the hall of entrance farther than to mark the elaborately carved balusters, and the panelled wainscot, we pass into the suite of apartments at the right hand, the reception-rooms proper of the house. These were divided in two by an arch, in which folding-doors were concealed ; and from floor to ceiling the walls were panelled in wood, the panels being of single pieces, some of them a yard in breadth. In the rear apartment, and opening to the north, were two alcoves, each flanked by fluted pilasters, on which rested an arch enriched with mouldings and carved ornaments. Each recess had a window furnished with seats, so inviting for a *tête-à-tête*, where the ladies of the household sat with their needlework ; these windows were sealed up in winter. The heavy cornice formed an elaborate finish to the truly elegant saloon.

"The second floor was furnished with four chambers, all opening on a spacious and airy hall. Of these the northwest room only demands special description. It had alcoves similar to those already mentioned in the apartment underneath, but instead of panels the walls were finished above the wainscot with a covering of leather on which were embossed in gorgeous colors flowers, birds, pagodas, and the concomitants of a Chinese paradise. On this side the original windows, with the small glass and heavy frames, still remain."

It seems desirable that this old historic mansion should be acquired by some society which would restore and preserve it as one of our most valued landmarks. Unless something of the kind is soon done, it is feared by those who are interested in its preservation that it is doomed to destruction. It requires even now extensive repairs, and it is only as a matter of sentiment that the expense of such repairs would be justified. The Medford Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution have for some time been considering ways and

means for its purchase. It has already acquired the material of which the summer house was constructed, with the view of its restoration at some future day. The object this Society has in view should have the hearty endorsement and support of every person who is interested in the preservation of our old colonial landmarks, not only those who reside in the city of Medford, but also those from other parts of the Commonwealth, as this subject is of more than local interest.

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## WILLIAM HENRY WHITMORE.

By Geo. A. Gordon, Secretary N. E. Historic Genealogical Society.

THE recent death of William H. Whitmore, city registrar of Boston, recalls the history of a family[1] resident in Medford during the provincial period, whence they departed to the valley of the Kennebec, returning to Boston, as merchants, during the now expiring century.

Mr. Whitmore was born at Dorchester, Sept. 6, 1836, and died at Boston June 14, 1900. He was a son of Charles O. and Lovice (Ayres) Whitmore, and was educated in the public schools and was graduated at the Boston Latin School in the class of 1851. In 1867 Harvard and Williams Colleges conferred the degree of A.M. upon Mr. Whitmore.

Mr. Whitmore entered upon a business life in Boston and was connected with successful firms. He early showed a masterful interest in antiquarianism, particu-

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[1] Mr. Whitmore's lineage ran:

1. Francis Whitmore, of Cambridge, and Isabel Park.
2. John Whitmore, of Medford, and Rachel Eliot.
3. John Whitmore, of Medford, and Mary Lane.
4. Francis Whitmore, of Bowdoinham, and Mary Hall.
5. John Whitmore, of Bath, and Huldah Crooker.
6. William D. Whitmore, of Boston, and Rhoda Whittemore.
7. Charles O. Whitmore, of Boston, and Lovice Ayres.
8. William Henry Whitmore.

larly in the departments of history and genealogy. He was painstaking, industrious, and accurate as a collector, and, more than ordinary, distinguished as a writer and author. His contributions to American and English magazines were numerous, and attracted the attention of minds cultivated and informed on such subjects. He was one of the founders in 1857 of the "Historical Magazine," in 1858 of the Prince Society, in 1863 of the "Heraldic Journal," and in 1879 of the Antiquarian Society, the predecessor of the present Bostonian Society.

Mr. Whitmore became, in 1854, a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and served on its various committees and boards of directors and as an editor of the "Register," to which he contributed a large number of valuable and important articles and genealogies, many of which have been reprinted. He contributed, in 1855, the genealogical portion of Brooks' "History of Medford." In literary lines, wholly or in part, he edited in 1860 the works of William Mackworth Praed; in 1865 the Hutchinson Papers; in 1867 the Dunton Letters; in 1868 the American Genealogist; in 1869–74 the Andros Tracts; in 1870 the Massachusetts Civil List; in 1878 Copp's Hill Epitaphs; in 1882 the "History of the Old State House." These are esteemed standards and do not include all of Mr. Whitmore's publications.

Mr. Whitmore exercised a large and influential interest in the municipal affairs of Boston. For eight or ten years he was a member of the City Council, and in 1879 was its president. He was instrumental in establishing in 1875 the Boston Record Commission, of which he continued a member till death. In 1892 he was elected city registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, where he remained until his decease. He organized the department on an efficient basis and conducted it with signal success.

Mr. Whitmore was a member of the Massachusetts

Historical Society and edited, 1875–82, for their Collections, Sewall's Diary.

Mr. Whitmore passed much of his boyhood in Medford, with his grandfather, John Ayres, of the Continental Sugar Refinery, and though never a resident, was widely known and esteemed in our city. He compiled and wrote the paper on Medford in Drake's "History of Middlesex County," 1880.

This is not the time or the occasion for a complete and exhaustive retrospect of Mr. Whitmore's career. Suffice it to say that a learned, scholarly, and gifted man has passed away, on whom his fellow-citizens conferred tokens of confidence, esteem, and respect during life, whom his associates in historical research regarded highly for his able, careful, exact, and discriminating labors through many years, and whose example remains to encourage not only the societies to which in generous measure he devoted time and talent, but also this and all other associations, whose object is the promotion of researches for the establishment of historic truths.

## MEMBERS.

Number previously reported, 246.

J. Herbert Barker.
Geo. L. Batchelder.
Mrs. Julia White Dalrymple.
N. Penrose Hallowell.
Miss E. Josephine Wilcox.
Miss Martha C. Wilcox.
William H. Winkley.
Lombard Williams.

## A SENTIMENT.

We hold him wise who ever strives
To glean the best of Wisdom's store;
And from the tasks by others wrought,
Himself to do the more.

C. H. L.

The Committee on Papers and Addresses has arranged the following program for the fifth year, 1900–1901.

October 15. — Social Meeting.

November 19. — "The Separation of Church and State in Massachusetts." Mr. Charles M. Ludden.

December 17. — "The Old Fire Department of Medford." Mr. Samuel G. Jepson.

January 21. — "John Winthrop and His Home on the Mystic." Mr. Charles D. Eliot, President of the Somerville Historical Society.

February 18. — "The Universalist Church of Medford." Mr. Parker R. Litchfield.

March 18. — The Annual Meeting.

April 15. — "Elizur Wright: His Life and Work." Miss Ellen M. Wright.

May 20. — "Old Ship Street; Some of its Houses, Ships, and Characters." (Illustrated.) Mr. Fred. H. C. Woolley.

Committee on Papers and Addresses.

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. David H. Brown. | Mr. John H. Hooper. |
| Mr. John Ward Dean. | Dr. R. J. P. Goodwin. |
| Miss Agnes W. Lincoln. | Mr. William C. Wait. |

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The Register sends greetings to its readers, with good wishes for a jolly Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. Good-by till we meet again.

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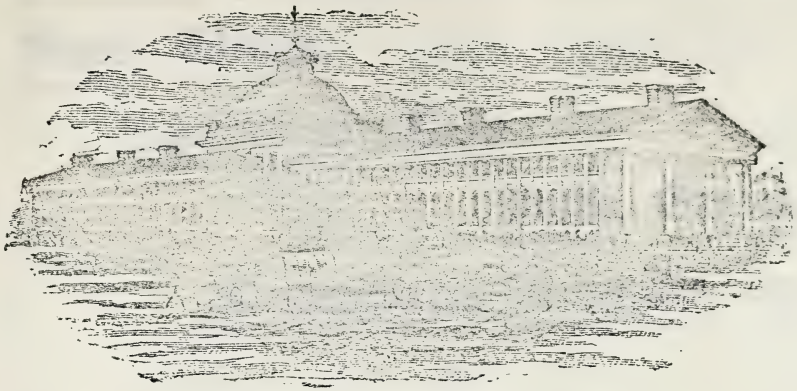

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